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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.—The Senate, on Saturday, accepted all the retrenchments which had been made by the Chamber in the Ecclesiastical Budget. The result will be the abolition of theological chairs at the universities, the sacrifice of the diguity of Canon, and a great reduction in the allowances to be made to Bishops and priests, the salary of the Archbishop of Paris, for instance, being reduced to £600. The Pope is about to send a special Envoy to Paris, to inquire if the French Government means to disavow the Concordat.

The Chamber on Saturday decided, by 418 to 66, to pass to the discussion of the *Scrutin de Liste* Bill; and subsequently the first clause, which embodies the principle of the measure, was adopted.

The debate on the *Scrutin de Liste* was continued in the Chamber on Monday. After speeches by MM. Spuller, Waldeck-Rousseau, and Clémenceau, the latter on this occasion supporting the Ministry, the amendment of the Marquis de Roys and M. Ribot, proposing to take registered electors and not population as the basis of the constituency, was rejected by 363 to 143, but subsequently an amendment of M. De Sonnier for eliminating foreigners from the calculation of the population was taken into consideration and referred to the Committee by the narrow majority of 263 to 221. On Tuesday amendments excluding non-electors in apportioning Deputies to population, and giving each department (for the next Chamber only) as many Deputies as at present were negatived by 232 to 217 and 234 to 220 respectively. An amendment was privately accepted by the Government and agreed to without division, that the next elections should be held within the sixty days preceding the expiry of the present Chamber on October 14. The Bill was then passed by 412 to 99, and will go at once to the Senate.

The French General in command in Tonquin telegraphed to his Government on Thursday that the enemy attacked Dong Dang on the 22nd inst., and that on the 24th the efforts of the French failed before the numerical superiority of the Chinese. The French loss was reported to be two hundred killed and wounded. The news led to a lively debate in the French Chamber on Thursday, when M. Ferry said the repulse was merely an incident of war, and that reinforcements which had been despatched were now arriving at Lang-son.

GERMANY.—Princess Charles of Hesse, mother of the Grand Duke of Hesse-Darmstadt, died at Berlin on Saturday night, after a short illness. The deceased was a Princess of Prussia, and was born in 1815. The Hessian Court is placed in mourning by the event; but the confirmation of the Hereditary Grand Duke, fixed for the 2nd of April, will not be postponed, though the ceremony will be celebrated in a less festive manner than was at first intended.

On Sunday, the eighty-eighth birthday of the Emperor, his Majesty received the congratulations of his family and the royal and princely visitors, among whom were the Prince of Wales and Prince Albert Victor, the Duke of Genoa, the Grand Duke of Oldenburgh, the King and Prince George of Saxony, the Dowager Duchess of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Prince and Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, the Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar, and the Prince of Waldeck-Pyrmont, &c. The Emperor did not attend the festival service in the Cathedral nor the State dinner and concert given by the Crown Prince, though he was able to be present for a short time at the opera in the evening. Prince Bismarck gave a dinner to the diplomatic body. Spite of the inclement weather, the crowds who hung about the place in hopes to catch a glimpse of the Emperor were enormous. In the evening the city was illuminated. The King and Queen of Italy sent a most affectionate telegram to the Emperor. The Pope likewise telegraphed his congratulations. On Monday the Emperor received the King of Saxony and other princes previous to their departure. At night the Duke of Edinburgh left for Coburg, and the Prince of Wales and Prince Albert Victor for Darmstadt.

The annuity to be granted by Prussia to Prince Günther of Schleswig-Holstein is £15,000. The Bill was approved by the Lower House on Monday.

ITALY.—The first stone of the monument to Victor Emmanuel was laid on Sunday by the King on the Capitoline Hill, Rome. The occasion, the locality, and the assemblage present made the scene strikingly impressive. All the great dignitaries of State, the Ministers, the Foreign Ambassadors (the Burmese Embassy being among them), and a vast concourse of invited persons thronged the top of the famous hill. Signor Depretis spoke shortly but very happily, and was greatly applauded. The signing of the Notarial Record was a somewhat long affair. The Ambassadors of England, Germany, Austria, and France signed the document.

On Saturday the Pope called an Assembly of Cardinals to consider the state of things created by the recent refusal of the French Chamber to vote the usual funds for ecclesiastical purposes. In accordance with the decision arrived at, and with the opinion of many French Bishops now in Rome, Cardinal Jacobini will send a decisive Note calling upon the French Government to declare frankly its purpose as regards the existing Concordat.

CHINA.—The Pekin correspondent of the *Times* telegraphs that the rumours that a rebellion had broken out in Kashgar are confirmed. The Tsungli-Yamén is alarmed lest this event should reopen the Kuldja question.

A telegram to Hong Kong from Kelung, dated 12th inst., states that the French loss in the recent encounter was 400 men, and the Chinese 1,100. The capture of Tamsui was expected daily. An official despatch from Admiral Lespés, dated Kelung, Wednesday, admits the loss of two officers and fifty-four men killed, and six officers and 136 men wounded.

The Hong Kong correspondent of the *Times* wrote on the 3rd inst:—

"The right of search interferes seriously with the natural flow of trade. Several English lines discharge at Singapore everything which may possibly be considered contraband destined for Hong Kong. British steam owners fear the Court at Saigon, but the Germans do not. German bottoms are rapidly supplanting the English. . . . I believe there are signs that the Chinese will come to terms before long; but no lasting peace is possible, as they are profoundly convinced that Germany is only waiting until France is deeply involved. German ex-officers continue to instruct and drill the Chinese, the total number of them exceeding 150."

TURKEY.—The Porte has asked at Rome and London whether a treaty has been signed between England and Italy with the object of co-operation in the Soudan and Egypt, and whether England has given her consent to the occupation of Tripoli by Italy. The Porte has decided to bring up its army in Tripoli to twenty-five battalions. The movements of foreign vessels along the coast of Barbary are closely watched.

The invitations to the approaching election of the Catholicos of Etchmiadzin, addressed to the several Turkish Armenian dioceses, have been made directly through the Russian consulates accredited to each locality, whilst hitherto they were sent by the intermediary of the Patriarchate of Constantinople. The Armenian National Assembly recently sat at Galata to discuss these modifications, and decided to send orders to the dioceses to consider these invitations null and void, and to proceed as they had done at the last election. The Patriarchate of Koum-Kapou accordingly issued the usual invitations, convoking the conclave for the 19th prox.

RUSSIA.—The Council of War has resolved, with the sanction of the Emperor, to raise the Trans-Caspian Turcoman militia to 300 horsemen, not a large body, but probably intended to form a military school for their countrymen:—

"They are to be employed to guard the frontiers of the Trans-Caspian region and to do police duty in suppressing brigandage. All offences and crimes not connected with military discipline will be dealt with in accordance with the native system of justice, and not by Russian military law. This is considered a great concession, which will greatly impress the Turcomans in favour of the Russians. Those who serve for ten years will also acquire exemption from all taxation, as well as from further service, besides various other privileges. For every horse killed in fight the Government will pay 100 roubles if it belong to an officer, and sixty roubles if it be owned by a private trooper.

INDIA.—The *Daily News'* correspondent at Allahabad states that the war preparations are taking larger proportions.

"The Viceroy met Sir Donald Stewart here, and sanctioned the mobilisation of two army corps, each to consist of 25,000 men. These troops are to be sent to Pisheen, with a reserve force of 10,000 men. Sir Donald Stewart will take the supreme command of the whole force. General Roberts will command one of the army corps, and General Hardinge the other. The divisional commands will include the Duke of Connaught. The Rawul Pindee force will probably move forward after the conference between the Ameer and the Viceroy. Six months' supplies for 50,000 men are being sent into Pisheen. Sir Donald Stewart left this place to-night for Rawul Pindee to mature the plan of the advance. There is the greatest emulation among the regiments to proceed on active service. A telegram to the *Pioneer*, from Gulran, dated the 17th inst., says that preparations for fortifying Herat are going on. All continues well outwardly. The monitors in Bombay Harbour are being overhauled and equipped on a war footing."

The force which is ordered to be mobilised, as a precautionary measure, will probably be disposed as follows:—Three divisions, each about 8,000 strong, at Quettah and Pisheen, and two divisions, each of 10,000, in reserve. Sir Frederick Roberts will probably command the first line, and Sir Herbert Macpherson one of the divisions; while the Duke of Connaught is likely to command one of the reserve divisions. It seems probable that every native cavalry regiment will be increased by one squadron, and every native infantry regiment by two companies. It is now generally recognised that the reduction of several regiments in 1882 was a most short-sighted step.

CANADA.—In the Canadian Parliament on Monday, Sir John Macdonald, the Premier, announced that a force of half-breeds, estimated at 450, under the command of the well-known Louis Riel, had revolted at Prince's Cut, overcome the local authorities, and were masters of the place. The rebels have captured the local officials, and at present hold them as prisoners. From later information it appears that the the revolt has assumed alarming proportions. Louis Riel, at the head of his half-breeds, has attacked a force of mounted police near Fort Carlton and defeated them, after an obstinate fight. Fifteen of the police were killed. It is stated that three Indian chiefs have joined in the revolt, bringing their followers with them. This increases the number of rebels to 1,500. It is further reported that 400 half-breeds are at Edmonton organising their forces and recruiting followers. The militia are being hurried forward with all speed by the Canadian Government; but from the distance necessary to be covered it will be some time before the local authorities can be reinforced.

A telegram from Fort William reports that the Rev. John M'Kintosh, Free Church minister, and Mr. Colin Livingstone, of Fort William, made the ascent of Ben Nevis on Monday. The weather was fine, but owing to the quantity of snow on the higher part of the mountain footing in some parts was obtained with considerable difficulty. This was particularly the case for about twelve hundred feet above the Red Burn, and crossing steps had frequently to be cut in the frozen snow. The view of the snow-capped mountains around was very fine, and such as few are fortunate enough to obtain. The occupants of the observatory at the top of Ben Nevis were found in excellent health and spirits. The buildings, with the exception of the chimney and tower, are buried in the snow, ascent to the rooms being obtained through the tower by means of a ladder; but once reached the rooms are very comfortable. The junior-assistant was found amusing himself with a kind of raft, which was carried over the snow by means of a sail. Stewart, the observatory attendant, also ascended on Monday with a bag of letters and papers. Mr. M'Kintosh held a short religious service in the observatory, this being the chief object in making the ascent.

News has been received at the Foreign Office of the sudden death on Saturday from typhus fever of Sir Harry Smith Parkes, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary at Pekin. Sir Harry Parkes, who was fifty-seven years of age, had been employed in China and Japan since 1842, when he was attached to the suite of Sir Henry Pottinger. In 1854 he became Consul at Amoy, and he was Acting-Consul at Canton from 1856 to 1858. He was joint Chinese secretary to Lord Elgin's expedition in 1860, and was taken prisoner by the Chinese while engaged in negotiations under a flag of truce. His companion in captivity was Sir Henry Loch, now Governor of Victoria, who afterwards published an account of the dreadful sufferings which they underwent. They were carried about in an iron cage, and had been actually led out to execution, when they were rescued by the allied forces. In 1865 Sir Harry Parkes was appointed Minister to the Court of Japan, which he filled for eighteen years, having been transferred to the Chinese Court in 1883.

A Cape Town telegram states that, acting upon the legal advice of Mr. Upington, in his capacity of Attorney-General, Sir Hercules Robinson has ordered the proceedings instituted by Sir Charles Warren with regard to the murderers of Mr. Bethell to be stayed, and has further arrested his general course of action in Bechuanaland. Sir Charles Warren has, in consequence, appealed to Lord Derby.

The *Halifax Morning Chronicle* of the 5th inst. states that the returning Canadian voyageurs, 262 in number, arrived at Halifax, Nova Scotia, on the 4th. The men state that the climate of Egypt agreed with them pretty well, the principal sickness being caused by diarrhœa, dysentery, and enteric fever. Some of them state that they have experienced warmer weather in Montreal than at any time in the Egyptian country. The "air of authority" assumed by the English officers in command is stated to have given much offence to the voyageurs. Coming down the Nile, they say, was as easy as rolling off a log; it was in going up that the powers of endurance were needed and when the energies of the men were brought into active play. They were in the very best of spirits with their trip, but said they would not care to repeat it. The greatest hardships and worst treatment was experienced on the way from Alexandria to Queenstown on the steamer *Poonah*. They all say they had nothing to eat but American canned meat and rotten "hard-tack." What they did get was in a state of rawness. They were told to "take their food and cook it themselves." This, it is said, is the kind of fare that is served out to the troops. Of good nourishing food there was plenty, if the boys had money to pay for it. One Winnipeger avers that he paid out twelve sovereigns for food for himself and two chums, for which the cook supplied the trio with the best in the larder. During eight days of the voyage another man, from the upper provinces, states that he paid 1dol. 50c. for the crust of a loaf. Their treatment, however, while coming across the Atlantic was very highly spoken of by all, and so much did they appreciate the care and comfort bestowed upon them that an address was presented to Captain Thompson, setting forth their complete satisfaction at the manner in which they had been looked after.

LOUIS RIEL.

There is something startling in the news from Canada; but it will only surprise those who thought that with Colonel Wolseley's "smashing" of the head of the Red River revolt they had heard the last of Louis Riel. For nearly fourteen years this remarkable man has been practically an outlaw in his own country; yet no Government of Canada during those years has dared to lay hands on him. When, as President of the Provisional Government of the Red River Territory, he sanctioned the execution of the Orangeman Scott, he turned against himself the fiercest animosity of the powerful body of which he was a member. When Manitoba was constituted a province of the Dominion, Riel was returned to Ottawa as one of its representatives. At great risk—for Ottawa swarmed with Orangemen when it was known he was coming to affix his signature to the roll of legally elected members—he came to the capital and signed his name in the Parliament building. He left Ottawa unharmed, and went back to the United States. The failure to carry out their threats discredited the Orange body, and greatly diminished their political influence.

The movement now going on in Canada is one of more significance (says the *St. James's Gazette*) than appears on the surface, and has several causes, each in itself important. The first is that the Red River people have never forgotten that they were transferred, without even being consulted, from a *régime* in which they enjoyed freedom in its widest sense to another they knew nothing of, and which restricted both the individual and collective liberty to which they had been accustomed. Then the French portion of the community knew that with the change of system the predominance they had enjoyed must in a very brief period disappear; and they were right. Another class looked with disfavour on the transfer of the Hudson's Bay territory to Canada: that was the Roman Catholic clergy in that country. They had hoped with the surplus French Catholic population of the province of Quebec to found in the centre of the Dominion a powerful French and Catholic community to counterbalance the rapidly increasing English-speaking population of the other provinces, particularly Ontario. Here, then, were causes enough of dissatisfaction; but there were others yet even more important. The unprecedented rush of speculation in the North-West, the taking up of all the fertile lands, and the construction of railways, all combined, disturbed the Indians and the game on which they depended for subsistence, and drove them and the half-breeds into the great wild North. And yet another element was added to all those above mentioned—namely, the emigrants who, decoyed beyond the settlements by contractors' agents by promises of extravagant wages, found themselves either compelled to work for starvation pay or, as the latest reports show, received no pay at all for work performed.

Here were grand materials for disturbance which skilful men are turning to account. Since last summer Riel and the others who are with him in this movement have been in close communication with the Fenian leaders in the States, and with the heads of the revolutionary organisations which extended their branches to Canada during last autumn. Riel aims at nothing less than the upsetting of the present Government in the North-West, and the establishment of an independent Republic. If he is as successful in his first movements as he is reported to have been, we must be prepared to hear of bands of sympathisers crossing from the neighbouring States of the Union to his assistance; and the forces at the disposal of the Canadian Government are inadequate to guard a line of frontier extending over 1,500 miles, which can be crossed at as many points.

Whatever the results of this Canadian business may be, it will be as well to understand that it is only part of a concerted plan of action directed against this country. If it be true, as stated, that Indians have joined Riel in any numbers—and there is nothing improbable in it—then we may look for wild work among the scattered settlements of that great territory, and of attacks on the Canada-Pacific Railway line at many points.

THE NILE EXPEDITION.

We announced briefly in our last issue that the British force which left Souakim last Friday morning had after five hours' hard fighting occupied Osman Digma's position. While the fightin gresulted in a victory for General Graham's force, it gave evidence of the most obstinate resolution amongst the rebels, and indicates that when the rebel strongholds are reached the conflict will be of a very serious character. General Graham had the enormous advantage of fighting upon ground selected by himself, the reconnaissance of the day before having furnished him with exact information as to the relative positions which his force would have to occupy, in order to check any advance on his right or any descent upon Souakim, while he operates against Tamai. The rebels appear to have been cognisant of what course was likely to be pursued, and during the previous night, despatched reinforcements from Tamai, a portion only succeeding in reaching the valley and taking part in the fighting owing to the early hour at which General Graham advanced. His army left Souakim at half-past five, and after a march of only six miles they were at the base of the hills, on whose summit the rebels have been showing themselves for several days. Here the fighting began at half-past eight, and continued as our force crossed the hills and advanced over the plain, and scoured the valleys which ran up between fresh ranges of hills in every direction. How the fight raged, and of the many incidents which took place under the eyes of the correspondents, the reports tell in graphic terms. One curious thing occurred when the rebels boldly attacked the Guards. Amongst those mounted was a youth upon a white camel, and he came fearlessly at the head of the rebels on foot, on horses, and on camels, a heterogeneous mass of brave but reckless men. The Guards waited until they were close upon them, then fired, sweeping to death every one of the advancing foe, and in the hail which rained upon them the youth and the camel fell riddled with bullets. This camel had been used in the night raids on the Souakim camp, and had earned the *sobriquet* of the "Ghost." The rebel force was formed chiefly of men who, it is supposed, had not before encountered the British, and their contempt for cavalry was one of the most remarkable traits ever exhibited by half-savage fighting men.

After the ridges of the hills had been cleared, the most desperate fighting ensued, the rebels again and again charging the Bengal Lancers, who were prevented from acting freely by reason of the dense scrub; as these fell back upon the Guards' square, to draw the rebels out of their concealment, the most perilous movement of the fight ensued.

On seeing the determination of our force, the rebels cleared off the front ridges with great haste; and as it was evident they were intent on turning the hill held by the Marines and the Berkshire Regiment, the Bengal Cavalry were slipped at them.

The Indian horsemen met the Mahdists on the ridge, and a determined fight here took place. The correspondent of the *Telegraph* saw one officer of the Bengalese cut down two Arabs with his own hand. After their charge, the cavalry fell back to give the infantry a chance of sending a volley among the scattered but still thronging foe. The enemy, indeed, had soon closed up; and starting forward in close pursuit of the retiring cavalry, rounded the hill, and, there—all at once—came upon the Guards' Brigade drawn up in a square. With a yell they went straight at it without hesitation, but in face of the withering fire which met them they never succeeded in getting nearer than fifteen or twenty yards of the line of bayonets. Nothing could surpass the steadiness of the Guards. They fired as coolly as on a field day. I even heard them quietly joking along the ranks up to the moment of the charge. Meanwhile the cavalry, having re-formed, were again ready for the enemy, who, after their futile assault on the Guards' phalanx, had passed along the face of the hill. Having stood another charge and suffered fresh loss they scattered between the hills. At this time, however, another body of Mahdists coming round on our right reinforced them. Their courage was admirable, but their tactics seemed, at this juncture, somewhat bewildered. Evidently, however, they were so full of fight they could not get enough. Our troops quickly followed them up as they circled round the crests, pouring in a very hot fire at every point, and never letting them stop to concentrate. But they were not to be cowed, even by such constant punishment. All this time the firing was heavy and continuous. Our field guns were brought into play after a while, and, notwithstanding the disadvantage of position and the rough contour of the ground, they did excellent service.

The Bengal Cavalry, says the *Chronicle*, acting on the left base, charged the retreating rebels, the Indians with their conspicuous turbans, their flashing lances, and waving pennons making a gallant show in the noonday sun. But the Bengalee was not to have it all his own way. A small body of the rebels, as nearly as I could judge about forty in number, turned upon their pursuers, and charged with the utmost bravery. An old sheikh, mounted upon a camel, led

the Arabs on, waving his spear frantically, and his followers nothing loth, rushed around the Bengalese flank, getting to their rear. The Indians charged home, piercing many of the rebels, and driving the others round the back of the hill before the Guards' square, which was drawn up on the right base. But as the Bengalese went back the rebels gathered again like a cloud behind them, and the Indians were fairly chased home. For a moment it seemed as if a vast confusion must ensue, but matters were soon righted. The Guards poured a heavy fire into the Arabs, but the rebels, following close upon the Bengalese, prevented the shots from having due effect. To give the Bengalese an opportunity of re-forming, the Guards' square slowly fell back, firing all the time upon the rebels. Gradually the fire became more effective. The Marines, who still occupied their position on the hillocks, covered the retrograde movement of the Guards' square, pouring a steady fire upon the Arabs. In an instant, however, the natives regained the hill, from which the Berkshire men had previously dislodged them, and at once opened fire upon our men. It was at this moment that Captain Dallison of the Guards was killed, together with a private, while two others were wounded. The whole force then fell gradually back for some little distance, when the Surrey men, who were holding the entrenched camp, and who had guns to protect the position, opened fire from the hillock on which the General and his staff were stationed, and soon shelled the enemy from the hill which he had occupied. The rebels had managed, however, to inflict severe loss upon the Indians, Major Robertson being wounded, together with six of his men, while five privates were killed. The Indians whose horses were disabled stood little chance, the rebels giving no quarter and finishing them off instantly. Seeing the straits in which the Bengalese were placed, the Horse Artillery quickly unlimbered, and opened fire in their support, but too late to effect an immediate improvement. The enemy scattered their forces directly the shells fell amongst them, and the artillery were drawn into the Guards' square. The rebels showed no disposition to come near the Guards, but quickly fell back, when the full force of their fire was experienced. Dr. Leng, while acting in the square, received a bullet wound in the shoulder, which is of a serious character. The 5th Lancers in the meantime charged down the pass leading to the zareba, but did not operate against the enemy on the plains. They dispersed the rebels before them in gallant style, but here and there little groups of rebels scorned to fly, and met their fate, fighting to the last. In this charge Major Harvey, of the 5th Lancers, was wounded; and Sergeant Nicholls and one private killed and two men wounded. The Lancers drove the enemy to the back of the mound, and from thence those who were unwounded made their way to the hills beyond, and were quickly out of range. The infantry, in scouting towards the rebels' village, had two men wounded on the way. After the enemy was shelled from the hill he disappeared into his fastnesses, and fighting was over for the day.

The confusion into which the Bengal Lancers were thrown for a time was caused, no doubt, by the rapidity with which the rebels acted, and the supreme contempt for cavalry which they exhibited, lying down, allowing the horses to ride over them, then, as they passed, hamstringing the animals, and as the riders fell, spearing them.

Captain Thomson, acting as cavalry brigade major, made, observes the *Chronicle*, a determined attempt to rally the Bengalese, and had the narrowest shave of his life in so doing. Calling upon his men to stop, and setting them the example, he was set upon by a few natives, who hamstrung his horse. Man and beast fell to the ground together, and Captain Thomson, being pressed under the horse, was only saved from death by the gallantry of one of his men, who sprang over him and warded off the thrusts until further assistance arrived and Thomson was extricated.

A movement by a part of General Graham's force brought about a sharp fight a few miles out from Souakim on Sunday afternoon. It seems that in the early morning the Indian Infantry, the Marines, the Berkshire Regiment, a Naval Brigade with four Gardner guns, and an escort of the 20th Hussars were sent out to reconstruct the old and well-known "Baker's zareba," about six miles out on the road to Tamai. No fighting was expected. The Native Infantry were to return at night, leaving the Naval Brigade, Marines, and Berkshire to hold the new zareba. At seven o'clock, two hours after the start, large bodies of the enemy were perceived coming in from the Hasheen hills. Their main direction was towards "Baker's zareba," but they came so near the general camp that the *Dolphin* and Sandbag redoubt were able to open fire upon them, and they were brought under fire by the guns on the new redoubt at Hasheen. The Guards were paraded as reinforcements, but the enemy seemed to vanish, and the Guards did not march forward. Later in the day heavy firing was suddenly heard, and reinforcements were at once pushed on, meeting on the way a disorderly crowd of fugitives—Indian camp-followers, Transport and Commissariat animals rushing helter-skelter to the rear—in fact, the usual signs of a disaster at the front. Happily, there had been no disaster, as was soon proved by heliographic messages from General M'Neill, to whom the command of the expedition had been entrusted.

According to the correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle*, the site of the proposed camp was reached without incident. A large sand redoubt was constructed, the four Gardner guns being placed in position, one at each corner. "The work was all but completed when, just at two o'clock, without the slightest previous warning, a large body of rebels sprang out from among the scrub and a neighbouring wady and made straight for our position. At that moment a large number of the men were working at the redoubt, others had their attention taken up by the baggage animals; and, not expecting an attack, our force was not in the best position to meet it. The order to form square was given instantly, the men rushed to their positions, but before the movement could be completed the rebels were swarming up to our quarter, brandishing their long spears, and throwing themselves with savage ferocity upon our troops. To complete the square formation under such circumstances was painfully difficult; but at this critical moment the sterling qualities of the British soldier shone forth to a degree which has never been excelled. Firing steadily, and with cool precision, the rebels were brought down in scores—in hundreds.

"The first wild rush was checked, the British square was quickly rendered intact, and we could breathe again freely. Then a merciless rain of leaden hail was poured forth from all sides by our men. The Gardner guns in the newly-constructed redoubt were brought into play; but again the rebels came on like a vast cloud, brandishing their spears and rushing upon certain death; for after the first sudden onslaught, when they got right into our lines, they never got within several yards of our square. Unfortunately, after a few rounds, two of the Gardner guns became jammed, and were for a time disabled; but the remaining two were splendidly served and did fearful execution. The rebels could not hold out against this terrible fire; they vanished back among the bushes and stole away behind the hillocks. All serious fighting was over, though for some time after the enemy kept up occasional shots from a distance. The Gardner guns and our small arms also kept firing so long as any traces of the rebels could be observed within range.

"The tactics of the enemy, who were fully 4,000 in number, differed from those on Friday.

"Instead of acting in isolated groups, there was, after their first appearance, a concentrated rush by a large number, and our force was then attacked simultaneously on all sides. Their fanatic courage won the admiration of our men. Nothing could exceed their bravery; they rushed upon certain death again and again without a falter. Even when they at length withdrew they did so fighting, and with no appearance of having suffered a crushing defeat. Hundreds of their dead and wounded lay all round our square. The experience of to-day may serve to impress the lesson of wariness upon them: but I much doubt if their inclination for fighting has been checked in any degree. The attack of the rebels, too, was conceived and carried out with all the astuteness of a Red Indian tribe. They sprang from behind the bushes, from behind inequalities of ground, and seemingly from the very ground itself, as if by magic. How so many of them could have got so near us without being perceived is a mystery."

In a later account the same correspondent adds:—"It is impossible to disguise the fact that we were most completely surprised, and that only the superb courage of our troops saved us from an overwhelming disaster. Not a man of us had any idea that thousands of rebels were quietly stretched amongst the scrub and behind boulders and hillocks, quietly watching us as we innocently and jovially worked at our zarebas. A few pickets were out, and a squadron of cavalry scouts as well—I believe eighteen all told—so we were content. Suddenly there was a great cry of alarm, rising loud above the din of the fatigue parties and the accompanying bustle of a great camp, and then hoarse cries from the officers, "Stand to your arms, men!" Never was word of command more promptly obeyed. But the men were scattered—many of them a considerable distance from their arms. The brave fellows did their best, however, to get into their allotted positions. As the squares formed, the eighteen cavalry scouts came rushing in—crashing through our own lines—and then we saw and heard the leaping, roaring, fantastic, yet terrible-looking, wave of black forms, which we knew was the enemy in strong—in overwhelming force. Then came that terrible stampede of baggage animals—horses, camels, mules, in one struggling, screeching, helpless, confused mass. The uproar was terrible, and must have been demoralising to any but the most highly-trained troops. I was just on the edge of the marines' square, and was caught in the storm, my horse being swept bodily to the ground, pinning me to the earth. As I lay with other prostrate animals above and around, struggling frantically to rise, I received a nasty kick on the head, which, however, caused me only temporary inconvenience. Regaining my feet, I found myself inside the marines' square. Panic even in those few moments seemed to have disappeared, and the brave fellows were firing steadily and well. Outside, away from the squares, a number of men on fatigue duties, such as cutting bush for the zareba-makers, were cut off from the main body. Undaunted and resourceful, they quickly improvised a square hard by the field kitchens. Their promptness saved their lives. Conspicuous amongst them were to be seen Major Alston and the Rev. Mr. Collins, one of our chaplains, fighting back to back; the reverend combatant having seized the nearest available weapon, which he wielded vigorously, as if to the manner born."

The correspondent goes on to mention that the 17th Indian Regiment was so unsteady and their firing so reckless at one time that the little square under Alston was in danger from it. Bugle-calls to cease firing being ineffective to stop their fire, the Rev. Mr. Collins volunteered to cross the bullet-swept ground intervening and convey the orders to cease firing.

"Stepping forth, calm and collected in demeanour, the chaplain walked, his life in his hands, across to the Indians, to whom he gave the necessary orders, and then returned as calmly to the little square which he had just left. His reception must have been some compensation for the risks he had run. The men, struck with his heroism, raised cheer after cheer, and, sticking their helmets on their bayonets, frantically waved them in their enthusiasm. Meanwhile fearful havoc was being wrought amongst the animals. Scarcely one transport camel or mule outside the square escaped. Scores and scores of them were hamstrung by the enemy, and many were killed by the fire from our own squares."

The *Standard* correspondent says that no fewer than a hundred and ten of the Arabs pressed into the zareba where the Berkshire Regiment was, and not one of them survived to tell the tale of their hand-to-hand fight. Their bodies were counted as they lay at the end of the fight.

"The Berkshire men fought with splendid courage and coolness, their steady fire not only sweeping away those who had entered the zareba, but repulsing all further attempts of the Arabs to enter the enclosure. The Indian infantry fought at a great disadvantage. Not only were the lines of fencing unfinished, but the baggage animals were at first between them and the enemy, and so hindered the fire of the defenders; and as the Arabs charged down many of the panic-stricken camels, horses, and mules rushed through the gaps into the zareba, creating the utmost confusion, and carrying the soldiers before them. Nevertheless, the Sikhs of the 28th Native Infantry stood their ground manfully, mowing down the enemy with their volleys, and when most severely pressed boldly charging them with the bayonet. The 17th Native Regiment, however, wavered, and, partly carried away by the stampede of the transport animals, fell back, firing wildly. Many of them rushed headlong for shelter into the northern zareba, almost driving in our marines. The marines, however, defended their lines as steadily as if these had been the bulwarks of a ship, and only a dozen Arabs crossed the boundary and died in their midst, while numbers of others were killed as they tried to cross the hedge, thrusting with their spears and discharging their guns in the faces of its defenders. The first wild rush of the enemy checked, the position was safe, and now rapid volleys were poured from the faces of each of the zarebas into the crowded enemy, while a rain of bullets from two Gardner guns mowed wide gaps in the masses of the Arabs as these charged along our front. The fire was too terrible to be withstood, and the natives fell back to the bushes, where their chiefs strove to re-form them for a second onslaught. Few, however, responded to the call, and soon all who were able to retreat disappeared among the bushes. The whole affair lasted but a quarter of an hour. There were five minutes of confused but desperate fighting, of hand-to-hand struggle and imminent danger, five minutes of a terrible sweeping fire into the masses of the enemy, five minutes completing their dispersal after they began to recoil from our front."

One of the most striking features of the fight, the *Times* correspondent says, was the gallant defence of the "F" and "G" companies of the Berkshire Regiment. On the alarm being given the two formed a rallying square outside the middle zareba, and quite 100 yards away.

"The enemy made a fierce rush at this gallant little band from all directions, but were met with a terrific and wonderfully steady fire which mowed down hundreds of them. The men were well in hand, and reserved their fire until the Arabs were within thirty yards. Two of the assailants fell dead under the bayonets, one hurling his spear before he died and wounding Private Campbell. This little square was commanded by Colonel Gillespie, and all the company officers were present. After fighting for half an hour, the square fell slowly back upon the marines' zareba, halting at times to fire. While this was going on, far from the Berkshire zareba, the colonel commanding the regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Huyshe, was in the Berkshire zareba with four companies, all of which has just turned out in their shirt-sleeves to complete the construction of the fence when the alarm was given. All the working parties rushed into the zareba and seized their arms and accoutrements. Meanwhile the enemy had leaped the zareba and captured the sandbag redoubt at the corner, hewing and slashing with their cross-hilted swords and stabbing right and left with their terrible spears. The companies of the Berkshire Regiment rallied by the colonel were pouring a steady fire into the still advancing foe outside the zareba, and also bayoneting those who had already got in. The 17th (Indian) Native Infantry fell back in disorder across the Berkshire zareba and poured through the corner to their own. Colonel Huyshe was attacked by three Arabs, all of whom he shot dead, one actually falling against his horse. The scene inside the zareba now was something terrible. A hand-to-hand combat raged everywhere; the Arab swordsmen were slashing and cutting at soldiers, camels, and horses alike; the native infantry were inextricably mixed up with the flying stream of baggage mules and camels; bullets were whistling from all points; and there can be little doubt that several of our men were killed by the fire of our own force. This, under the conditions of the fight, was absolutely unavoidable; the only strange thing being that more did not fall from this cause."

It would appear from the despatch of the correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* that Sir John M'Neill had the narrowest possible escape from death:—

"When the alarm was first raised he was on horseback just outside the zareba. As soon as he saw the enemy he gave the necessary orders, and then attempted to jump the brushwood barrier—an easy enough feat; but his horse shied and backed from the zareba. It was a critical moment, for the rebels were rushing down at full speed and were close upon him. Fortunately, the General's aide-de-camp, Lieutenant Charteris, saw the peril of his chief and gallantly rushed to his rescue. And not a moment too soon, for the rebels were at close quarters. One Arab had his gun pointed straight at the General; but Charteris turned the shot, and then, quickly turning, cut down another assailant with his sabre. As Charteris was thus engaged he was attacked with the greatest fury by a lithe young Arab—a mere boy—in fact, not more than ten years old. The youngster fought like a tiger, and succeeded in spearing Charteris through the arm before he himself was shot. He was a gallant little fellow; he fought with all the courage of a man, and suffered a man's fate. I fancy Lieutenant Charteris will hear more of that little incident, for he saved his General's life."

The correspondent then mentions that during the rush which the 17th Native Infantry made into the chief zareba, Major Drury, who vainly strove to stay the rush, was left somewhat in the rear, and, seeing one of his men disabled, stopped and attempted to save him, although the enemy were close upon him.

"In another moment, indeed, they were hacking and thrusting at the heroic officer with their spears and swords. Grander heroism was never shown on field of battle. For several minutes Drury fought with at least twenty rebels, and with his single sword kept them from their prey; nor did he abandon his efforts to save his comrade until a spear-wound in the neck and the danger of being hopelessly surrounded compelled him reluctantly to retire. No officer, perhaps, worked harder, or was more conspicuous in the fight, than Major Kelly, Brigade-Major. He seemed to be ubiquitous; turning up at the nick of time wherever wanted, and cheerily rallying the men where it was needed. He even went outside the zareba, and nearly paid for his daring by his death. Several rebels rushed at him, and one struck him in the arm with a spear. It seemed impossible that he could escape, but he was splendidly rescued by Lieutenant Domville, R.N., and brought safely into the square.

There was a terrible scene after the fight, says the *Times* correspondent, at the corner of the zareba near the sandbag redoubt. "The dead lay thick. Ten of the Naval Brigade, some Indians, and Lieutenant Seymour, of the *Dolphin*, with dead mules, and horses, and wounded camels were seen in one horrible heap. The whole of the ground was studded with the enemy's dead. All those killed by the Indian troops had fearful wounds. In the Berkshire zareba the total killed was twenty-three. In the Indian zareba I counted five dead, but two more are being brought in, the total being seven. In the marines' zareba there are six dead; and the grand total is thus thirty-six men killed inside the zarebas, but no doubt more are lying outside. At ten o'clock the moon came out, and shone brightly. A walk round the zareba, by its light, makes the battle-field even more ghastly and impressive. Here, within the zareba, the ground is encumbered with dead and wounded, camels and horses, and is littered with clothing and portions of the kits of the dead and living. In the centre of the zareba a few water barrels, arranged in line, form a rendezvous for the officers. All over the ground are patches of blood and brains. In one corner of the zareba lie the two rows of our dead. Looking from our zareba over the plain, which is nearly free from bushes for a distance of 100 yards, the moonlight reveals a fearful spectacle. The bodies of the enemy lie thick over the plain, in every imaginable attitude. Immediately beneath the zareba hedge they are most numerous—a proof of the desperate gallantry with which they came on, with spear and shield, knobkerry and camel-stick. But there were others still more brave, for from our zareba alone seventy or eighty bodies were dragged out into the plain by our men before night-fall. The dead animals it was impossible to move."

The *Times* correspondent, writing at one o'clock on Monday morning, says:—"The electric light from the *Dolphin* in the harbour, six miles away, is visible at intervals. As its long and brilliant beams sweep round the plain and over us it cheers our hearts. This anxious and weary night is rendered more trying by the cries of a wounded Arab close outside the sandbag redoubt. He calls on the name of Allah incessantly, and is answered by a comrade at a long distance. Now and again a sharp shrill cry comes from the bush—no doubt from parties of the enemy seeking their outlying wounded. No attack has been made, and the only sounds that break the deep silence besides those which I have spoken of are the occasional stamp of a horse and the groan of a wounded camel, and the only light seen is that of a match as some of the men light their pipes.

"At daylight parties were sent outside the zareba to see if any of our dead or wounded lay on the plain and to collect the scattered arms. Three banners were found and brought in. One, which was found planted on the sandbag redoubt (actually planted on the gun, says our correspondent), is white, with a red inscription in Arabic, neatly sewn on, within a broad scarlet border. Another banner, which was attached to the lance of a Bengal Lancer, and doubtless taken on Friday at Hasheen, is black, with a red and green border, and without an inscription. The third is blue, with a red circle, within which are the words 'From the Mahdi, the true Prophet of God,' in three lines, and also, 'Whoever shall fight under this banner shall obtain victory.' Most of the enemy's dead were mutilated in a terrible manner, and many were actually shot to pieces by the Martinis, but I forbear to enlarge on the loathsome scene around us. As I write already a sickening smell fills the air. Burial parties have gone out to dig graves for our dead, but they cannot get on, as the enemy is again swarming through the bush.

"One of the most remarkable facts of this ghastly battlefield is the extraordinary number of camels that were killed—nearly seven hundred.

According to the latest official return, the British losses in the engagement on Sunday, exclusive of camp followers, were 6 officers and 94 men killed, 6 officers and 136 men wounded, and one officer and 70 men missing. These casualties include those of the Indian contingent, which had 3 officers and 52 men killed, 4 officers and 71 men wounded, and 38 men missing. The returns are still incomplete as to the losses suffered by the transport train; but it is known that they were even heavier than was believed at first. Out of the 560 camels of the water train 470 have been killed. The slaughter among the ammunition and commissariat camels was not so heavy, but the total loss of camels is believed to exceed 700. The loss of the transport men and followers is proportionately heavy. It is known that two out of the four companies lost respectively seventy and sixty men killed and missing, twelve of the number being English. A large number of the mules have also been killed, and it is estimated that fully 20 per cent. of the entire baggage animals of the expedition have perished—a loss which, at the present moment, is serious in the extreme.

On Tuesday morning the Shropshire Regiment escorted a convoy to the redoubts near Hasheen, and returned unmolested, but between Souakim and the zarebas the bush appears to be swarming with Arabs. The Sikhs and the 5th Lancers started on Tuesday with a convoy to the zarebas, with orders to burn down the bush and clear the ground along the line of march as they went. About half way they met the marines and the Coldstream Guards, who had come out to meet them. Colonel Gildea, who commanded the convoy, handed over the transport to their charge, and they started with the animals on their return to the zarebas, Colonel Gildea, at the request of the officer commanding, ordering the Lancers to escort them on their way back to the post.

On Wednesday two regiments of the Indian Brigade again escorted a convoy half-way out from Souakim to the zarebas, taking with them a captive balloon. The balloon was secured by two ropes, one attached to a mule-carriage, the other to the saddle of a mounted horseman. Messages were sent up and down the latter rope to and from the officer in the car of the balloon. A correspondent says:—"There can be no question of the great advantages which will be derived from the use of the balloon, and had it been in the air above the zarebas on Sunday the surprise and heavy losses would have been avoided. The bush here is so dense that even a mounted man cannot see bodies of men crawling towards him until they are within twenty paces. From the altitude of the balloon, however, the observer will be able to look down

between the bushes, and could at once detect persons moving among them. It is probable, too, that the sight of this strange object floating in the air high above the British post will greatly exercise the minds of the Arabs, and will excite much alarm as well as surprise." The convoy over which the balloon floated was not molested; which, as a correspondent observes, can scarcely be wondered at if the rebels were as astonished at the strange spectacle as were the natives of Souakim. The bazaars have been in a perfect ferment on the subject.

General Graham started with a convoy from Souakim on Thursday morning for the zareba on the road to Tamai. When the convoy and its escort were three miles from the camp the enemy swarmed towards them from the bush, but fell back on the troops opening fire. When the convoy had advanced a little further a small group of Arabs charged desperately down on the front face of the square. A rolling volley from the Grenadiers arrested their advance, nineteen of them, among whom were four boys and a woman, falling in a group. The retreat of the main body of the Arabs was hastened by shells from the artillery.

General Graham has received a telegram from the Queen expressing her admiration of the courage and perseverance shown by the troops.

The correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle*, in a letter from Abu Klea, calls attention to a breakdown of the Ordnance Store Department. He says:—

"Already at Korti the Black Watch were things of shreds and patches; now after a month and more of desert warfare and fort-building the troops with this column are not much better. There is scarcely a pretence of uniform anywhere but in the khaki-clad ranks of the Royal Irish. But even the Irish are very badly off for boots, and what it is to be without a sole to one's uppers those have reason to know who have to tramp over this country of wiry grass, acacia thorns, and Nubian sandstone rubble. Yesterday, when the Roman Catholic members of the old 18th knelt at mass one could see that at least one sole was off more than 10 per cent. of the pairs of boots. And the Royal Irish are not the worst off by any means, for some of the other corps have, as one man put it, but two whole pairs of boots among three men. Attempts are made in the very little time the men can call their own to patch and mend; but as might be expected, the remedy proves often worse than the disease; and there are only two shoemakers among us all, while even shoemakers need leather to sole boots. But with the amount of marching before us over the roughest ground, the prospect of no boots is a very grievous one. Rags and patches offend the eye; ingrained grime through the want of water for washing is not agreeable, but sound boots are as necessary as food. Surely there must be something very rotten in a department which can leave the soldiers it is supposed to serve in such a state. The truth is that civilian administrators cannot realise what is really necessary if soldiers are to do their work properly, and the sooner the Ordnance Store Department is put into the hands of military men the better for the service and the country."

Another native has arrived at Korti from Khartoum, bringing yet another account of the circumstances connected with the capture of Khartoum and the death of Gordon. He states that Gordon was at the palace when the enemy were treacherously admitted into the city. A body of the enemy at once made their way to the palace, whither they were guided by a man who had upon several occasions been employed by Gordon as a messenger to carry communications to and from the Mahdi. The enemy apparently intended to take Gordon alive, but hearing them approaching he rushed outside the house with his revolver in his hand. He was at once attacked by the rebels, against whom he defended himself until his revolver was emptied, and was then killed. The messenger adds that every Egyptian and other "foreigner" found in Khartoum was killed, as well as every soldier. It has been ascertained that General Gordon wrote a letter, dated the 15th of December, to a military friend, saying, "It is all up with us. Good-bye to you and your wife."

There is said to be an immense traffic in slaves around Khartoum. In consequence of the large number of prisoners female slaves are selling at about £16 each.

The correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle*, who has left Lord Wolseley's headquarters, gives an account of the state of the British posts on the bank of the river between Korti and Wady Halfa. He says:—

"Everything in and about them is maintained in the highest state of efficiency. The hospitals *en route*, which serve as resting-places for our poor fellows coming home invalided, are admirably organised. Comforts are plentiful, and the care which is bestowed upon the sufferers is almost affecting through its extreme thoughtfulness. This attention to their wants is much valued by the sick and wounded, who speak in terms of the highest praise of the arrangements made to lessen their sufferings. I have also taken special observation of the new posts which are destined to be occupied by our troops during the summer months. The sites are as pleasant as could be selected here, though that is not saying a great deal. All the places are well though simply defended. As the railway is now to be extended from Sarras to Ferkeh, it will be necessary to alter the present sites of many of the camps. The main positions, however, with the exception of the camp at Dal, will remain unchanged. Stores, especially clothing, are being pushed to the front in considerable quantities. Many articles are being sent up destined to meet wants which are certain to be felt before the cool breezes set in again."

A proclamation was published lately addressed by the Mahdi to the inhabitants of Arabia, promising the speedy re-establishment of the Caliphate in Medina. According to the *Nusret*, an Arabic newspaper published in Vienna, it contained the following passage:—

"I swear by God and the Prophet that I do not wield the sword to found for myself a kingdom on earth, or to amass wealth, or to reside in splendid palaces, but to bring comfort and relief to all believers, and free them from the slavery imposed upon them by unbelievers, as also to restore to the Moslem faith its old glory. I am therefore determined to carry my sword from Khartoum to Berber, and thence to Dongola, Cairo, and Alexandria, and to restore these cities to Moslem rule. From Egypt I will proceed to the land of the Prophet, and drive out the Turks, whose reign is not better than that of unbelievers, and restore its two holy cities to the sons of Ismael. Believe, therefore, O sons of Ismael, that I shall soon appear in your midst armed with the sword of faith."

The following is a list of British battles, with the losses thereat, fought in the last eleven years, from Amoaful to the fight at Baker's zareba on Sunday. At Amoaful, where Sir Garnet Wolseley routed the Ashantees, our loss was 7 killed and 200 wounded. At Peiwar Kotal (Afghan war, General Roberts), our loss was 2 officers and 10 men killed, and 2 officers and 71 men wounded. At Isandlana (Zulu, Colonel Durnford) all our men were killed—23 officers, 500 men, and 1,000 natives. At Rorke's Drift we lost 17 killed and 10 wounded. At Zlobane Mountain, South Africa, we lost 11 officers and 80 men killed and wounded. At Ekowe our loss was trifling, there being scarcely more than 41 killed and wounded. At Ulundi we lost 104 killed and wounded. At Charasiab, in the second Afghan War, General Roberts marching to Cabul lost in action 24 killed and 57 wounded. At Cabul, where the fighting lasted three or four days and Roberts retreated to the Sherpur cantonments, we lost 62 killed and 164 wounded. General Gough, struggling to relieve Sherpur, lost 5 killed and 33 wounded. At Ahmed Khel we lost 17 killed and 124 wounded. At Maiwand, when General Burrows was defeated by Ayoob Khan, we lost 21 officers, 300 English and 700 natives killed, 15 officers and 90 men missing. At Maara, when General Roberts defeated Ayoob Khan and brought the war to an end, we lost 29 killed and 161 wounded. At Laing's Nek our losses were 81 killed and missing and 109 wounded. At Ingogo we lost 150 killed and wounded, and at Majuba 85 killed, 131 wounded, and 60 prisoners taken. At Tel-el-Kebir we lost 9 officers and 45 men killed, and 22 officers and 320 men wounded. At Teb 5 officers were killed, 17 wounded, 25 non-commissioned officers and privates killed, and 123 wounded. At Tamasi our loss was 5 officers and 86 men killed, 8 officers and 105 men wounded. At Abu Klea we lost 9 officers and 65 men killed, 9 officers and 85 men wounded. At the battle of Gubat we lost 19 killed and 66 wounded. At Hasheen on Friday our loss was 21 killed and 42 wounded. In the battle of Sunday we lost 7 officers and 63 men killed, 6 officers and 89 men wounded, besides a large number of men belonging to the Indian Contingent.

The Rev. Prebendary Barnes, rector of Heavitree, the literary executor of General Gordon, writing to the Lord Mayor, states:—"The instances—and they are many—when the late General Gordon, both in Egypt and Palestine, acted in the spirit of the good Samaritan, and with personal care, as well as the gift of such money as was requisite, saw that the native children were cared for, assure us that the Prince of Wales encouraged a most felicitous suggestion in placing before the Mansion-house Committee a hospital near Port Said for the sick and suffering of all nations. Not only travellers along that great highway of the world, but the mixed population in the neighbourhood, will receive benefit from this memorial to one who desired to be their benefactor. My own experience in that part of Egypt taught me that ophthalmia is a disease which is quickly caught, quickly cured, but which, without due care, may become extremely painful, and it is a disease of that character which a hospital at Port Said might combat successfully. Without quoting General Gordon's words, his acts throughout his life are the best proof possible that we may regard Admiral Sir E. Inglefield as having suggested a form of memorial in strict accord with the wishes of him whom we commemorate. Mr. Power, the Consul, and the *Times* correspondent at Khartoum, is so often mentioned in the letters of last year from Khartoum that I hope his name will be held in honour in this hospital."

The *Standard* correspondent at Korti mentions as a proof of General Gordon's kindly interest and forethought for those who served him, a written placard that he had placed on each steamer to ask:—

"That as these people (his Soudanese troops) could not speak English, any Englishman going on board was requested to treat them with forbearance and consideration, as they were his soldiers and had done good service."

The *Times* understands that the first five volumes of General Gordon's diary, from September 10, when Colonel Stewart left Khartoun to November 5, where the sixth volume begins, arrived in London yesterday. At the end of the first volume General Gordon says that his sister is to have the diaries. He also states that if they are printed they should be carefully pruned.

A return to an address of the House of Lords, dated March 16 of the present year, of the number of the chaplains attached to Her Majesty's forces in the Soudan, and the distribution of them, was issued on Tuesday. At Dongola there is one Church of England chaplain, and one Roman Catholic; at Wady Halfa there are two Church of England chaplains, one Roman Catholic, and one Presbyterian; at Souakim, two Church of England chaplains, two Roman Catholic, one Presbyterian, and one Wesleyan; and at Assouan, one Roman Catholic, one Presbyterian, and one Wesleyan.

The Glasgow papers contain an account of a Confirmation by Bishop Beckles, as "superintending Bishop of Church of England congregations in Scotland," in St. Silas', Glasgow, which is one of two or three scattered chapels in Scotland that do not acknowledge the Bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church, who happen to be also holding Confirmations at this time. It is much to be wished that the authorities of the Church of England would take such steps as may tend to prevent the recurrence of such acts, and uphold the rights of their brethren of the Episcopal Connexion in Scotland.

Painted windows as memoriale of departed worth have more than ordinary interest in the eyes of all. Mr. W. G. Taylor (late O'Connor) has at all times pleasure of showing his various works for church and hall in progress, the introduction of likenesses in windows being a special study. Designs and estimates free. Medal awarded to works in Paris Exhibition.—The "Art" Works, 4, Berners-street, London.

IRELAND.

The flag at the Mansion House, Dublin, bearing the City arms, which the Lord Mayor promised to haul down during the visit of the Prince of Wales, afterwards repenting of the hasty pledge, was actually hauled down on Monday night. Another flag was suspended in its place on the following day.

A letter is said to have been delivered on Wednesday night to the Lord Mayor by a loyal citizen who superintended the removal of the Civic flag on Monday night. The writer denies that the flag was stolen, and alleges that it was simply removed for the purpose of preventing its being lowered as an insult to Royalty. The letter adds that the day the Prince and Princess of Wales enter Dublin the flag will be prominently displayed in a suitable and public position, flanked on one side by the Royal Standard of England, and on the other by the Union Jack, and protected by hundreds—and if the occasion should require by thousands—of strong and willing arms. The spectacle, the writer states, will no doubt be a galling one to the Lord Mayor, and also to the numerous friends and former brother Corporators of James Carey deceased, but he has only himself to blame. After doing service in Dublin during the Royal visit, the flag will probably be removed northwards to the loyal province of Ulster, where it will occupy a leading position in the demonstrations which will take place in Belfast, Derry, Enniskillen, and other places in honour of their Royal Highnesses.

A respectable and extensive farmer near Dublin, named Blackburn, has been arrested and committed to prison on the result of an inquiry ordered by the Government into the facts of the recent attempt to blow up a Protestant church at Kilteevogue, in the county Donegal, with dynamite.

The young man, William Orr, who was charged with firing a loaded revolver from the Orange-hall, Newry, into a Nationalist procession on the 9th of June last, was acquitted on Wednesday at the assizes. A second charge against Orr of having with others caused a riot at the same time and place will be proceeded with.

His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant left Clonmel, where he had been sojourning as the guest of the Earl of Donoughmore, for Loudon on Wednesday. He was closely guarded by a mounted military escort and constabulary with loaded rifles.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Monday.

Lord Sydney brought down the reply of the Queen to the address of their Lordships' House to Her Majesty on the subject of the offers of military assistance to this country by certain of the Colonies. Lord Granville, replying to the Duke of Marlborough, said it was quite true that on the Continent much importance was attributed to the opinions expressed by the *Times;* but any one who had read the articles of that paper on foreign affairs during the last year could scarcely suppose that, even if he had the ability, he could have contributed to them, because he would have been like Sheridan, who wrote a brilliant attack upon *himself* and forgot to reply to it. At the same time he thought that he would be establishing a novel precedent if he were to express either agreement with or dissent from the whole or part of a newspaper article.

Their Lordships were engaged for two hours and a quarter in a discussion of the Trinity College, Dublin (Perpetuity Grants), Bill, a private measure. On a division the Bill was rejected by 42 to 16. The Educational Endowments (Ireland) Bill, the object of which is to revise and reform the educational endowments of Ireland by machinery similar to that brought to bear on such endowments in England and Scotland, was read a second time; as was also the Elections (Hours of Poll) Bill.

Lord Dalhousie, in reply to Lords Minto, Fife, and Aberdeen, said it was the intention of the Government to introduce after the Easter recess a Bill on the subject of establishing a new department for the administration of Scottish business.

Their Lordships rose at five minutes past seven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Monday.

Mr. T. C. Bruce intimated his intention to move that the proposals for adjusting the finances of Egypt and the collateral arrangements indicated in the papers presented to Parliament for regulating without previous communication to Parliament the neutralisation of the Suez Canal are unsatisfactory, and do not warrant the conclusions to which the Government has come. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach and Mr. M'Coan put questions as to the character of the international guarantee and the securities taken by the Government against the creation out of it of international interference with the affairs of Egypt. The Chancellor of the Exchequer replied that the guarantee was on the model of the Anglo-French Guarantee of 1855, and it had not been thought necessary to introduce into the declaration or convention any reference to a claim which was not put forward and for which the Government did not conceive that any occasion had been given. In answer to another question he said that no more of Lord Northbrook's report would be published. In answer to Mr. Norwood, Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice said it was inexpedient at present to produce the instructions to our Suez Canal delegates; upon which Mr. Cowen gave notice that he would move an address to the Crown praying that no convention relating to the Suez Canal be ratified until it has been submitted to Parliament.

Sir Stafford Northcote, having asked whether the Government would consent to give a longer delay before asking for a vote on the Egyptian Agreement, Mr. Gladstone repeated his former refusal; and Sir Stafford thereupon moved the adjournment of the House, in order to lay before it the danger of this hurry. It was not a matter, he pointed out, which concerned the bondholders only, for it dealt with the interests of the British taxpayers and the relations of Egypt to this country for many years to come. The whole of the papers had not yet been published, and the country, he insisted, had a right to have ample time to consider and master the conditions to which it was being bound. The necessity of deliberation was increased by the fact mentioned by the Prime Minister, that other Legislatures were waiting to see what the House of Commons would do; and he mainained further that the course to be taken in regard to the Suez Canal required more time. Mr. Gladstone repeated that the Government, as the persons responsible for the conduct of public affairs, were compelled by a commanding necessity to press the House to give a definite vote on the subject before separating for the Easter recess. The Suez Canal did not enter into the question at all. The House was not asked to express any opinion affecting it, and the views of the Government were entirely unchanged since they were stated in Lord Granville's circular. The bulk of the papers had been before the House for several days, and he maintained that to ask for a vote before the holidays was not contrary to parliamentary usage. To delay a decision would be unfair to foreign Legislatures; and now that all financial expedients had been exhausted, unless the House of Commons came to its assistance Egypt would be in a condition of bankruptcy in April next. Finally, addressing the front Opposition Bench, he warned them that they were quite as much interested in despatch as the Government; for if the result of Mr. Bruce's motion should be to transfer to their hands the responsibility for Egyptian finance they would find that they had not a day or an hour to spare. Lord John Manners taunted the Government with having brought Egypt into a state verging upon bankruptcy, and then demanding that the House should discuss their proposals with a pistol at its head. The Chancellor of the Exchequer declined to discuss the political question at that moment, but repeated that unless the House sanctioned the Convention before Easter Egypt would become bankrupt. The discussion was continued at some length, and eventually the motion for adjournment was withdrawn. Sir Stafford Northcote then assented to the discussion of the Convention being commenced on Thursday.

The Committee on the Redistribution Bill having been resumed, the second schedule was agreed to. On the consideration of the third schedule, comprising boroughs to which additional members are to be given, Sir Edward Reed moved to include Cardiff, but this was negatived by 113 to 50. In the course of a discussion on an amendment by Mr. Raikes for the rearrangement of some of the metropolitan constituencies, Sir Charles Dilke stated that he found that under the scheme of the Bill the East-end of London would be over-represented, while the West-end was under-represented; he therefore proposed to give Westminster a fourth member, which would be taken, after consultation with the Boundary Commissioners, from the number to be given to the East-end. Accordingly, Westminster with four, and Southwark with three members, were included in the schedule. An amendment by Dr. Cameron, to extend the boundaries of Glasgow and give it ten members instead of seven, as proposed by the Bill, having been negatived by 110 to 35, the Committee adjourned.

Mr. Hibbert moved the second reading of the Cape of Good Hope (Advance) Bill. In the course of the discussion which ensued, Lord Hartington stated that Sir C. Warren had provisionally settled affairs in Stellaland; and, as far as was known, entire success had attended his operations. The Bill was then read a second time; and, after some further business had been disposed of, the House adjourned at a quarter past two o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Tuesday.

Lord Greville gave notice of his intention to ask the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief whether the heavy loss sustained by our troops in the Soudan on Sunday last was not owing to the advance having been made without the ordinary precautions, and whether the General commanding on that occasion still retains the confidence of his Royal Highness. Lord Granville, answering a question by Lord De La Warr, said he was informed by the French Ambassador that the French Government had authorised his Excellency, in the most formal manner, to assure him that the treatment by France of neutrals was exactly equal, whatever their nationality.

Lord Lamington called attention to a Bill now before the other House of Parliament for the widening and improving of streets in the immediate vicinity of the Palace of Westminster. He strongly objected to the Bill as one which would transfer to a private company responsibility which ought to rest with the Government. He described the approaches to the Houses of Parliament as a disgrace to the nation, and he argued that the work of improving them was one which ought to be undertaken by the Government; but plots of ground which had been purchased in the neighbourhood years ago had been kept ever since without an attempt to erect public buildings upon them, and this, while not less than from £35,000 to £40,000 a year was paid for Government offices scattered all over London. Lord Rosebery agreed with Lord Lamington that there were serious objections to handing over this great site and its improvements to a private company; but, on the other hand, having regard to the present financial situation, the Government could not be expected to now find funds for dealing with the site in the imperial spirit suggested by his noble friend. Lord Northbrook, in answer to Lord Sidmouth, said that a naval officer had been appointed to examine the newly-invented torpedo boat, but it would not be desirable to make public the report of that officer.

Their Lordships rose at five minutes to five o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Tuesday.

Mr. Stanhope asked the Prime Minister whether he could fix a day for the commencement of the work of the Afghan Frontier Commission, or whether the negotiations were to take place in London, to which Mr. Gladstone replied that the time was not come when it could be fairly made a matter of complaint that the Russian Government had not replied to the important communication made by Lord Granville about ten days ago. The effect of this communication must be to bring to an issue whether the negotiations are to take place in London, or whether there is to be a preliminary inquiry on the spot. Sir G. Campbell asked whether it was to be understood that the state of tension existing on the frontier would prevent Sir P. Lumsden from carrying on his work, and Mr. Onslow asked whether it was not settled last autumn that an arrangement was to be made on the spot. Mr. Stanhope gave notice that he would repeat his

question on Monday, and Sir H. Wolff gave notice that he would ask whether any statement would be made in regard to the Afghan question before the Easter holidays, to which Mr. Gladstone at once said he could not hold out any hope of the kind. Mr. M'Coan asked as to the reported disturbances at Penjdeh, to which Lord E. Fitzmaurice replied that in the present state of the negotiations it was inexpedient to enter into matters which rested on newspaper reports, and he also declined at present to lay on the table the instructions to the Suez Canal delegates.

The House then went into Committee on the Redistribution Bill and resumed the consideration of Schedule 3, containing the names of the towns which are to have increased representation. There was a long discussion on a proposal by Mr. Sexton to extend the boundaries of Dublin, and to give it five members, which was resisted by Sir C. Dilke, and ultimately negatived by 76 to 32. On Schedule 4, which contains the names of the new boroughs, a number of consequential amendments were made in the metropolitan boroughs, with the object of carrying out the arrangement agreed to on the previous evening as to Westminster and Southwark, but the final changes were postponed until the report. The proposals of the Bill as to Finsbury were recast, and in place of three boroughs—Finsbury, Clerkenwell, and Holborn—the old borough of Finsbury was restored with a small modification, and with the proviso that it is to have three members. The hamlet of Penge, on the motion of Mr. Grantham, was taken from Lewisham and added to Camberwell, and a proposal by Mr. Raikes to change the name of West Ham to Stratford was negatived. General Alexander moved to reconstitute the Ayr boroughs, which led to a discussion on the grouping of Scotch constituencies; but eventually the amendment was withdrawn. Dr. Lyons proposed to give two members to the Royal University of Ireland, but received no support, and Schedule 4, was added to the Bill. Schedule 5, which determines the boundaries of boroughs with altered boundaries, was then taken. A long discussion ensued upon an amendment by Lord Emlyn to omit from the schedule the new borough of Pembroke (comprising Pembroke and Haverfordwest), which would have the effect of leaving the existing boroughs unaltered, and on a division the amendment was negatived by 80 to 51. The Committee then adjourned.

Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, in introducing the Irish National Education Bill, explained that its main object was to establish compulsion, by requiring every parent under penalties to cause his children to attend school and by prohibiting employment. A school attendance committee was to be created under conditions analogous to those in this country. Compulsory powers were also given for the acquisition of sites, and provision was made for increasing the emoluments of the teachers. In the conversation which followed, Mr. M'Carthy approved the introduction of the Bill; Mr. Meldon and Colonel Colthurst described it as satisfactory in its main principles; and Mr. Sexton criticised it unfavourably. Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Mr. Kenny, and Mr. O'Brien having spoken, the Bill was read a first time.

After some further business had been disposed of, the House adjourned at a quarter past two o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Wednesday.

The Seats Bill again occupied all the afternoon sitting, and the consideration of the 5th Schedule, alterations of borough boundaries, was resumed. An amendment by Mr. C. Lewis, virtually disfranchising Warwick, was discussed for some time. Sir C. Dilke resisted the amendment, on the ground that Warwick and Leamington were practically one town, and, after considerable discussion, the amendment was negatived by 108 to 28. Sir G. Campbell next moved an addition to the Kirkcaldy district burghs, which he subsequently withdrew on the Lord Advocate undertaking to inquire into and to consider the matter. A motion by Sir T. Bateson, to limit the boundaries of Belfast by omitting certain rural districts, drew from Sir C. Dilke the remark that the proposal if adopted would necessitate a decrease in the number of members for the city. This statement gave rise to a lively discussion, in the course of which Sir T. Bateson animadverted sharply on the "compact," and on a division the amendment was negatived by 124 to 61. The expediency of extending the boundaries of Dublin was again raised by Mr. Sexton, and was still under discussion when the Committee adjourned. Sir C. Dilke, answering an inquiry from Mr. Raikes, said he would state to-morrow whether there was any chance of the Bill being taken again before the holidays. Sir S. Northcote asked whether any news had been received as to the Afghan negotiations, and received a reply in the negative from Sir C. Dilke.

The House adjourned at ten minutes to six o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Thursday.

Lord Kimberley brought down a message from the Queen, stating Her Majesty's intention to call out the Reserves and Militia Reserves for service under the Flag. The Lord Chancellor having read the message, Lord Kimberley said he would move on Friday that their lordships take it into consideration.

The Municipal Voters (Relief) Bill was read a second time and the Elections (Hours of Poll) Bill passed through Committee.

The Lord Chancellor, in presenting a Bill for the amendment of the law relating to lunatics reviewed retrospectively the Acts of Parliament relating to those afflicted persons, and the recommendations of Commissions and Committees as to alterations and improvements in those laws. He stated that it was his intention to have such changes as the Legislature might decide upon making included in a consolidated measure embracing all enactments relating to lunatics. As regarded the insane who were under the guardianship of the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice, he mentioned that their number was not very large, and that the system of guardianship in their case was on the whole satisfactory. Then, in the case of pauper lunatics, there were precautions which did not exist in that of the very large number of non-pauper patients who were sent to licensed houses or placed under private care. At present such persons could be placed in confinement on the certificates of two duly qualified practitioners. In the Bill before their Lordships it was proposed that before any person of that class could be placed in confinement there must be not only the certificates of two medical men, but the order of a Judge of a Superior Court, of a County Court Judge, a stipendiary magistrate, and a justice of the peace. Moreover, within one month after the date at which such person was placed in confinement, there must be a special report on the case laid before the Lunacy Commissioners. An inspection by two inspectors appointed by the Lunacy Commissioners was also to be made, and on a report by their medical visitors that the patient was not a lunatic, the Commissioners could sign an order of discharge. Further, the order made for the confinement of any person as a lunatic was to endure only for three years, at the expiration of which term the patient must be discharged if the order is not renewed. Powers are given in the Bill for the extension of the public asylums in counties and boroughs so as to afford accommodation in them for non-pauper patients, and the Bill provided that no private asylum should be licensed without the sanction of the Lunacy Commissioners. The Bill was read a first time.

Lord Stratheden and Campbell called attention to the meeting of the three Emperors at Skiernievice in September, 1884, and moved for any diplomatic correspondence which existed from Her Majesty's representatives abroad as to the new concert or alliance between the Courts of Germany, of Austria, and of Russia. Lord Kimberley, in the absence of Lord Granville, said that according to the information afforded to Her Majesty's Government, the three Emperors met to show the union of the three empires and to talk over politics generally, but there was no treaty entered into on the occasion, and there was nothing in the meeting inimical to the peace of Europe. There were some papers on the subject, but they were of a very confidential character. There were none which could be produced. Lord Greville, who had given notice of a question to the Duke of Cambridge relative to the advance from Souakim on Sunday last, put it to the Under-Secretary for War. The noble Lord asked whether, having regard to the unusually heavy loss of officers and men, and the almost complete annihilation of transport in that advance, the General in command still retained the confidence of the War Office. Lord De Ros and Lord Napier of Magdala protested against the question as unfair to Sir J. M'Neill in the circumstances of the imperfect nature of their Lordships' information as to the facts of the case. Lord Salisbury thought that, after this protest, the feeling of the House was that the question should not be put. Lord Kimberley did not like to move that it be not put, but he agreed with Lord Salisbury that that was not the time and their Lordships' House was not the place for the question; he hoped, therefore, that it would be withdrawn. Lord Greville withdrew the question. Lord Morley, in answer to Lord Bury, stated that there had been some complaints of the ammunition served out in the Soudan, and the matter was being inquired into.

Their Lordships rose at a quarter past seven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Thursday.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer brought down a message under the Sign Manual announcing Her Majesty's intention to call out the Army and Militia Reserves, and he gave notice that Lord Hartington would move that the message be taken into consideration on Monday.

In answer to a question from Sir S. Northcote, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said he would bring in the Budget on April 16, and he promised to lay the War Vote of Credit on the table before that date, though no vote would be taken on it. In reply to Sir W. Barttelot, Lord Hartington read a telegram from General Graham, just received; and Colonel Dawnay gave notice that on the earliest opportunity he would move that the continued slaughter of men, women, and children on the shores of the Red Sea by the orders of Her Majesty's Government is a discredit to civilisation. Answering a question from Mr. Onslow, Mr. Gladstone said he had no information that the Russians had ever attempted to seize Penjdeh, and their nearest fort was at Pul-i-khisti, eight miles off. Sir H. Wolff asked whether the Admiralty was preparing to send a squadron to the Baltic if necessary before the breaking up of the ice, which Sir T. Brassey declined to answer. The House having gone into Committee of the whole House, Mr. Gladstone moved the resolution of which he had given notice, authorising Her Majesty to guarantee the payment of the interest on the new Egyptian loan, amounting to the annual sum of £315,000. After some preliminary remarks of a technical character in regard to the signature of Turkey, he proceeded to show, first, that the guarantee is necessary, and, next, that it is safe. In regard to the first, he pointed out that the total liabilities of Egypt in April would amount to £1,676,000, of which £1,367,000 consists of bankers' advances; and as to the second point, he assumed that the fears expressed arose either out of the Commission which might be appointed two years hence, or out of the possibility of an international control springing out of the guarantee. With regard to the first, he reminded the Committee that the Commission would only be appointed in the event of Egypt not being able to restore the equilibrium of her finances, and the powers to be given to the Commission would be the subject of negotiations at the time. As to an international control arising out of the guarantee, while there was nothing in the convention or the agreement to confer a right of interference, he denied emphatically that, either by international law or by international usage, a pecuniary guarantee had ever been held to carry with it a right of interfering in the internal affairs of the country befriended. To enforce this argument Mr. Gladstone examined in detail the precedents, beginning with Mr. Pitt's Subsidies down to the Greek Loan and the Turkish Loan; and he maintained that in every case the international engagement conferring rights of intervention must be construed literally, and conveyed no right not specifically mentioned. He admitted that, if the interest were not paid, a right of intervention arose; but, as this was to be the first charge on the Egyptian revenues there was no chance of a default. While maintaining that no claim of internal control had ever been founded on such a guarantee, he dwelt on the unwisdom of inserting words in the agreement expressly barring any right of interference; and urged that the only true security was the harmonious co-operation of all the Powers. We had now reached a point at which the Powers had the same views and the same interests as far as the purposes of this convention were concerned, and if the resolution were accepted the finance of Egypt would be placed on its legs for a given time by an arrangement to which all the Powers were parties. Mr. T. Bruce moved as an amendment to the resolution that the conditions of the agreement and convention do not justify the engagements into which the Government has entered. Criticising the negotiations, he contended that the peculiar position of England has not been sufficiently considered, and, tracing the course of events from the establishment of the Law of Liquidation, he argued that we had undertaken special liabilities and could not escape from them. Why, he asked, had the Powers forced their guarantee on us if not to enable them to gain a right of interfering; and as a financial matter the international guarantee was a hardship to Egypt, as the loan could have been obtained more cheaply on a purely English guarantee. We should in future be unable to carry on the affairs of Egypt without advice being continually intruded upon us by Powers whose interest in the country was as nothing compared to ours. And the ultimate result of the arrangement now made was, not to promise Egypt a better future, but to plunge her back into the past. Sir W. Barttelot strongly censured the Government for sacrificing the interests of the country to gain the friendship of France. Sir G. Campbell argued that the convention ought not to involve us in any obligation to make good any deficit which might occur in the financial administration; while Mr. Macfarlane, though not approving the agreement, thought it the best the Shylocks of Europe would allow Her Majesty's Government to conclude, and protested against the want of patriotism of the Opposition in suggesting that the agreement implied an international control. Mr. Monk made some remarks, and Mr. Elton argued that Egypt was not bankrupt, and that she could have been tided over her difficulty by a smaller loan, which we alone should have guaranteed ourselves. Mr. Labouchere remarked that it was political heresy to put up the Khedive in opposition to the wishes of his countrymen, and financial heresy to pay interest to the bondholders before paying for the administration of the country. He objected to the convention as being a French scheme, which had been accepted by the Government against their will, and if there was to be an English occupation of Egypt the cost ought to be a first charge upon the revenues of Egypt. Mr. Collings objected to any interference with Egypt, and Mr. Onslow argued in favour of annexation. Mr. A. Grey maintained that England had incurred obligations in Egypt which made the policy of "scuttle" impossible; and though there was much in the convention which Englishmen could not like, he thought it best to accept it. Mr. A. Balfour, in pointing out the evil consequences which must arise from the convention, characterised the Egyptian policy of the Government from the first as one of failure and disaster, and, referring to the utterances of Mr. Gladstone on the Turkish Loan in 1855, maintained that they were arguments directly opposed to the policy he was now pursuing. Mr. M'Coan vigorously protested against the arrangement proposed. He criticised the various schemes for Egyptian finance which had from time to time been suggested by the European Powers, and argued that the convention was utterly indefensible. Mr. Bourke held Mr. Gladstone's argument as to the necessity of this guarantee to be entirely unworthy of the occasion, and as to its safety, he showed from the papers, and especially from the despatches of Lord Dufferin and Lord Granville, that the proposed Commission of Inquiry must lead to foreign interference with the English officials in Egypt. After the sacrifices we had made, we had a right to claim an exceptional position in Egypt, and he agreed with the Cairo correspondent of the *Times* that the convention would promote a permanent settlement in Egypt, and that our blunders in that country must provoke foreign interference. Lord Fitzmaurice went at length into the financial situation of Egypt, and, after pointing out that the demands of Russia and Germany to take part in the deliberations of the Caisse preceded the request for a suspension of the Sinking Fund by two months, maintained that after the law of liquidation there had been a period of financial prosperity which, he believed, would have continued but for the military movement of 1882. This movement was one of the principal causes of the present difficulty, which, he contended, could not be overcome unless the proposed guarantee was agreed to. He examined exhaustively the various alternatives open to us for restoring the equilibrium of the Egyptian finances, and contended that the arrangement concluded by the Government was the most advantageous for Egypt. He discussed also, with equal minuteness, the international position of the Suez Canal, which at present, he showed, was so doubtful as to require to be definitely settled by the co-operation of the Great Powers.

The debate was then adjourned, on the motion of Sir M. Hicks-Beach.

The Army Annual Bill was considered in Committee. The Royal Irish Constabulary Bill was read a second time, and the House was counted out at half-past three o'clock.

A birthday presentation has just been made to Mr. R. B. Browning, the painter, by "a few of those members of the Browning Society who venerate the memory of his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Barrett Browning." They have given him a set of his mother's works in a book-case designed to match the one given to his father, the poet, three years ago, and ornamented with many pretty conceits illustrative of Mrs. Browning's poems.

The *Graphic* of this week (March 28) publishes as an extra supplement a sheet containing fac-similes of a letter and part of the diary of the late General Gordon. The letter is dated "Khartoum, July 30, 1884," and has a postscript of July 31; and the diary narrates events from April 21 to April 27, 1884. The handwriting, erasures, seal, and signature of the late General Gordon are reproduced with the utmost exactitude.

Chappuis' Reflectors for Cellars.—Factory, 69, Fleet-street.

POLITICAL AND PERSONAL.

It is now definitely fixed that the Marquis of Salisbury will open the Conservative Club at Wrexham on the 21st of April. He will be the guest of Sir Watkin and Lady Williams Wynn at Wynnstay.

The members of the Leeds and County Conservative Club on Wednesday took possession of their new premises in South-parade, Leeds, which have been purchased and fitted up at a cost of £30,000. The capital has been raised by a limited liability company.

Mr. T. C. Baring, M.P., will preside at the banquet of all the Habitations of the Primrose League in South Essex, to be held in the Leyton Town Hall on the 20th of April. Mr. H. C. Richards, Conservative candidate for Northampton, Sir H. J. Selwin-Ibbetson, M.P., and Colonel W. T. Makins, M.P., are among those who are expected to attend.

Mr. Stuart-Wortley, M.P., has introduced a Bill to provide for the payment of the expenses of taking a poll of the rateyayers in a contested election of a Burial Board. The expenses reasonably incurred in this way are to be defrayed by the Burial Board just as if they had been incurred in carrying the Burial Acts into execution.

Immediately after Mr. Gladstone's statement on Tuesday night with regard to the non-receipt of a reply from the Russian Government to Lord Granville's important despatch of the 16th inst., a meeting of the members of the Cabinet was held in Mr. Gladstone's private room at the House of Commons. The meeting lasted for two hours.

Mr. Dick Peddie's Bill for the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church of Scotland will propose a different principle of compensation from that ever before sanctioned by Parliament. It will not provide that the disestablished ministers shall receive full compensation for the loss of vested interests, but that they shall receive annuities varying in amount according to the age of the annuitant. Ministers of advanced years will receive annuities equal to their full stipends; but as the age descends the annuity diminishes, until, in the case of young men, it will be less than one-half of the stipend.

An extraordinary meeting of Ambassadors took place at the Foreign Office, at three o'clock on Thursday afternoon, at which Count Karolyi (Austria), M. de Staal (Russia), Count Munster (Germany), Count Nigra (Italy), and M. Waddington (France) were present, as well as Earl Granville. Musurus Pasha (Turkey) joined the other Ambassadors at half-past three. The meeting had been called in consequence of the Turkish Ambassador not having received full authority to sign the Egyptian Convention. Musurus Pasha explained that, whilst the delay had been caused by doubts whether the Porte should signalise its concurrence in the international agreement by signing the Convention or by means of a firman from the Sultan, there was no question whatever about the fact that the Turkish Government assented to the proposed loan. The representatives of the other Powers took note of this declaration, which was deemed sufficient for the purpose, and the meeting broke up.

Mr. Plunket, M.P., speaking at the dinner of the City Conservative Club on Thursday night, denounced the Egyptian Convention as a "surrender," and, whilst hesitating to say anything to weaken the power of Ministers of the Crown in a great crisis, he said they were entitled to ask how it was that the Afghan difficulty had come about. Sir Richard Temple, who also spoke, insisted on Herat being rendered impregnable, and upon Candahar being prepared as a second line of defence.

Lord John Manners, addressing a meeting at the Working Men's Institute at Tilton, Leicestershire, on Tuesday night, said that, whether they looked at home, abroad, or in the colonies, they would see that the condemnation of "Too late" was applicable to almost everything that the present Government had undertaken. "The Government had failed in everything which they had undertaken for the benefit or the glory of the empire. He thought that one reason why they had failed was the insane promises, the invidious declarations, and the unpatriotic policy which was instituted by their head in the Midlothian campaign. The Government commenced its career by an abject apology to Austria for words—ill-tempered and unjustifiable words—spoken by Mr. Gladstone in Midlothian; and now at the end of five years they were witnessing more apologies—not this time to Austria, but to Germany—and apologies accompanied by something very substantial in the way of conceding to Germany everything on the coast of Africa and New Guinea which Germany might wish to ask. The policy of the present Government had been sadly too late. Too late Gordon was sent to rescue the garrisons of the Soudan. General Graham fought two very bloody battles for no earthly object which any human being had been able to discover. After months of irresolution, Lord Wolseley was sent out to rescue Gordon, and the verdict upon that enterprise was 'Too late;' and now they saw a further campaign entered upon, and gallant British blood being poured out like water on the sands of the Eastern Soudan for what object no one could tell them; and if any one could tell him the object of the present campaign they would tell him more than any of Her Majesty's Ministers had been able to do. But there was another subject which was, perhaps, even more important, and was exciting, perhaps, even the apprehension of most thoughtful persons, and that was the position of affairs on the Afghan frontier. Lord Beaconsfield devised a policy by which a well-defined frontier would be fixed between Afghanistan and India, so that England and India might regard with comparative indifference any advance which Russia might make towards the frontiers of Afghanistan. When Mr. Gladstone entered office this policy was set aside. The Russian Cossacks were now facing the Afghan outposts, and the Russian army was supposed to be within striking distance of Herat. Could they find a more conclusive proof of the want of prescience and the 'too late' policy of the present Government? In South Africa the 'too late' policy had been equally disastrous and unfortunate." His Lordship then referred to the finances of Egypt, and condemned the Egyptian Convention as likely to render of none effect all the sacrifices of blood and treasure which England had made for Egypt. Lord Waterford, who also spoke, said they never knew from day to day what the policy of the present Government was.

The obituary of this week includes the name of a man who was for more than ten years an active and well-known member of the House of Commons. Mr. Darby-Griffith died on the 19th inst., after a long illness, at his country seat, Padworth House, Reading. We extract the following from the *Times*:—"He was the eldest son of General Darby-Griffith, of the Grenadier Guards, who was wounded at the battle of Corunna, by a daughter of Mr. Thomas Hankey, of Fetcham-park, Surrey, and grandson of Admiral George Darby, who relieved Gibraltar in April, 1781, when the garrison had been reduced to painful extremities. For this distinguished service he was offered a peerage, but declined it, although a patent had been actually made out for conferring that dignity upon him. Mr. Darby-Griffith was educated at Eton and at Christ Church, Oxford, where he took the degree of B.A. in 1826. In May, 1855, he married Arabella Sarah, only daughter of Mr. Edward Colston, of Roundway Park, Wilts. He has left an only son, Christopher William, of the Grenadier Guards, born in 1858. Mr. Darby-Griffith first entered Parliament in 1857 as member for Devizes. His politics were those of an independent Conservative, 'not bound to the absolute support of any party or Minister.' He was one of the numerous body of Conservatives who generally extended to Lord Palmerston a friendly support, though he voted with his own party against that Minister in 1864 on the vote of censure. Old Members of Parliament still remember Darby-Griffith's shrewd humour and apt quotations. He sometimes made amusing speeches, flavoured with a spice of eccentricty; but he was best known for his perplexing questions to Ministers at a time when the art of baiting the Treasury Bench was in its infancy. His questions to Lord Palmerston afforded special amusement, as, however well directed, they were sure to be parried with ready humour and playful repartee. Mr. Darby-Griffith continued to sit for Devizes until 1868, when he lost his seat at the general election. At the dissolution in 1874 he again vainly sought the suffrages of his old borough, and in February, 1876, he unsuccessfully contested the county of Berks." And we may add that he was remarkable as well for the variety of his information as for the special knowledge of all matters relating to foreign affairs. His travels had been extensive throughout Europe and the East, his observation was accurate, his geographical knowledge considerable, and his memory retentive; and, although it was often the fashion to laugh at many of his interrogatories, it was well understood that his information enabled him to frame questions which Lord Palmerston found it difficult to answer. He was somewhat in advance of his generation in appreciating the importance of the Suez Canal, and his repeated remonstrances against the enforcement of slave labour in its construction were not without results. Had he entered Parliament earlier in life it is probable that he would have made for himself a more considerable position; but the borough of Devizes was shorn of one of its members by the Reform Act of 1867, and he was unsuccessful in retaining the single seat. To the last, although enfeebled by a long illness, he continued thoroughly interested in all the complications of the Egyptian imbroglio, and was an acute critic of the policy persued during the last three years. He was a well-read scholar, familiar with the classics, and ever ready with an apt quotation both in debate and conversation. In his own county he was an indefatigable magistrate, regular in his attendance on the Bench, and at Quarter Sessions he interested himself in reducing the expenses incident to the office of High Sheriff. By his exertions he contributed materially to passing a Bill for the extension of the Berks and Hants Railway from Hungerford to Devizes, an important feature of the communication west of Reading, now worked by the Great Western Railway Company. The hospitality of Padworth was proverbial, and the kind attentions of Mr. and Mrs. Darby-Griffith both in the country and during the London season were appreciated by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

Sir Thomas Brassey, M.P., addressed a meeting of his constituents on Tuesday at the Royal Concert-hall, at St. Leonards. He doubted not that at an early date Parliament would be engaged in considering the question of legislation of a somewhat severe character for the purposes of law and order in Ireland. Nothing was so much against the carrying out of Liberal ideas in regard to Ireland as the crimes which had taken place. If the Irish would show themselves peaceable and law-abiding, he thought it would be a wise and proper step to move in the direction of local self-government. Referring to matters arising out of the Convention between the Powers for the adjustment of Egyptian finance, he said it was unfortunate that we should be involved in responsibility in regard to the finance of Egypt or the government of that country, but on the whole he thought we should be left in the end in such a position of influence in Egypt as could not be hoped for by any other Power. He referred to the statement he recently made in the House of Commons on the Navy, and said he desired to make a supplement to it. They were criticised severely for not having secured such a distinct ascendency as they should have, having regard to the great expenditure of the country in comparison with other Powers. He felt it his duty to point out that England expended a very large sum annually in the protection of the trade of the country, and this fact did not seem to be allowed for by those who criticised. They had to maintain in China and in all treaty ports a vessel for the protection of their commercial establishments. From such an expenditure as this other Administrations were free, because they did not protect their commerce in this way. In twenty years they had spent millions of money on this matter. Other countries appeared to give their taxpayers a better return because their vessels were for purposes of war. In the recent programme accepted by Parliament one-and-a-half million of money was directed to be spent for vessels, in addition to the Naval Estimates, and nearly a similar sum in the Army Estimates for guns. These vessels would prove most valuable and would all be of an effective character. Adverting to Sir E. Reed's criticisms, he charged Sir Edward with being inconsistent in some of his criticisms. He felt sure the new vessels would be found well adapted for the purposes for which they were required.

A Parliamentary paper (Greece, 1, 1885) has been issued containing the correspondence respecting the assault made on Mr. Nicolson, the representative of the British Government at Athens, on January 16 of this year by a gendarme outside the town. The paper contains a full account of the assault, the reparation made by the Greek Government by ample apology, by the public dismissal and by the subsequent imprisonment of the man who committed the assault; the expression of Earl Granville's satisfaction at this sufficient reparation, and his approval of Mr. Nicolson's conduct; and the termination of the matter, after a debate of five days, by a vote of the Greek Chamber approving the action of the Greek Government.

Under the presidency of Lord Camperdown, the Select Committee of the Upper House appointed to consider his Lordship's Bill requiring water companies to supply the particulars of their claims and to take certain steps before cutting off the supply of water to consumers met on Monday to hear petitions against the measure. Mr. Hollams, speaking on behalf of the eight metropolitan companies, suggested an adjournment. He said that, having regard to the chairman's observations made in their Lordships' House, there would be no difficulty in adjusting the matter without a prolonged discussion, and he believed, with some amendment, the companies would assent to the legislation in the Bill. It was arranged that the metropolitan and provincial companies should prepare a joint statement of their views on the subject, and the committee adjourned until after the Easter recess.

Evidence of the fabulously increasing wealth of City property is occasionally furnished in newspaper paragraphs recording the sales of freeholds. It has been left for Mr. Hubbard, M.P., to point out the exceptional wealth of individual gentlemen connected with the City. He poses the Premier with the question "whether he will consider if the difficulty of providing four members for the City of London, assessed at £38,000,000 to the Income-tax and having a rateable value of £4,000,000, might not be overcome by taking the second member from boroughs to which two have been assigned?" It is not clear how this would work, but Mr. Hubbard evidently thinks the difficulty of finding four gentlemen assessed in the aggregate at £38,000,000 to the Income-tax is not beyond the resources of the City of London.

Sir Richard Temple presided on Tuesday night at a dinner of the members of St. Stephen's Club, and delivered an address on Central Asian affairs. Having traced the advance of the Russians to their present position, he said we ought of course to try and make them go back to the position which they formerly occupied:—"Let them remember that Russia was now within striking distance of Herat, and it remained for us now to make Herat at least defensible, and, if possible, impregnable. They heard that there were certain passes in the mountains north of Herat which could be fortified and held against an offensive force. No doubt that was true, and Sir Peter Lumsden and his officers would probably occupy those passes; but he did not think Russia would advance that way, but by the Heri Rood River, which was her true line, and which offered the best military communication. They must, therefore, not flatter themselves that by holding the passes that they would stop her advance. Sooner or later Russia would advance on Herat by the Heri Rood route. They might stop this by fortifying certain positions near to the city. Not an instant should be lost, and if the positions were fortified then Herat would be rendered impregnable. Trained British officers should be sent by the British Government to co-operate with the Afghans, and to show them how to carry out the works. If this were done, the advance of Russia would be checked, and it would be impossible for her to move into Afghanistan. As long as they kept Russia at arm's length, then India would be loyal and tranquil. If they, on the other hand, let Russia come as far as Candahar, all India would be in anxious suspense, and possibly our empire there might shake from end to end. Russia had advanced at the rate of 100 miles a year, and had moved 800 miles nearer to India than when Lord Beaconsfield was in office. Though he admitted that it would be extremely difficult to prevent Russia appearing before Herat, yet it would be possible to prevent her getting any further. If that were done, and Candahar were occupied in force as a second line of defence, with a good railway communication between that city and India, then he thought we should be able to give a good account of ourselves and our empire; and we should have an independent Afghanistan as a quickset hedge, full of very prickly thorns, between our Indian Empire and Russia.

The Marquis of Londonderry presided on Wednesday evening in the Central Hall, Darlington, at a large meeting of Conservatives called together by the local Conservative Association. Mr. E. Gibson, M.P., said that there never was a period when it was more needful that public opinion should assert itself, and the nation should apply itself to realise what was the present position of affairs. The outlook at home and abroad was dark and unsatisfactory. At no time in this century had the Government of England stood lower in the Councils of Europe. In whatever quarter of the horizon they cast their glance there was disaster, incapacity, and failure, and there was little prospect of a recovery of the national influence until there was some change of Government. (Applause.) No men liked to admit, and the Government least of all, that they had blundered in everything; but not one of them could meet his statement by pointing to one solitary redeeming success. Could any one during the last five years point to a single class, interest, or trade that had benefited? The management of foreign affairs was unworthy of the name of diplomacy. It was marked by foolish delay, lost opportunity, tardy decision, and feeble policy. What chance would the feeble twaddle of our Foreign Office now have as against the strong purpose and resolute will of Prince Bismarck? It had none, and deserved to have none. (Applause.) The attitude of the Government towards the Colonies was cold and unsympathetic, halting and incapable, and most unworthy of the splendid return that those Colonies had made. The question of Afghanistan was so involved with anxious, important, and delicate considerations that he was pleased he had topics to occupy him sufficiently that night to spare him the necessity of dealing with it with all the caution and reserve of a public man who desired not to do injury to his country. But on the question of Egypt he could speak out. The Government had been the curse of Egypt, and had brought that country to the eve of anarchy and bankruptcy. Mr. Childers said they could not brook the delay of ten days in the discussion on the financial proposals without being absolutely bankrupt. That was a magnificent tribute to the splendour of the benefits the Government had conferred upon Egypt. (Cheers.) Arabi might have been a selfish military adventurer, but his success could scarcely have been a greater calamity than our own sterile victories. The Mahdi might be a ruthless fanatic; but even his success could hardly have represented a more desperate catastrophe to Egypt than the nerveless and aimless policy of the present Government. Their purpose was like a reed shaken with the wind; their policy was as hard to catch as quicksilver, and the position they occupied in Egypt was as dangerous to this nation as standing upon quicksilver. Was this miserable and deplorable state of affairs ever to end? The Government had been for three years blundering. Month by month, and year by year, they had blundered and blundered and blundered again. (Hear, hear.) It would never end while the present Government are in office. The papers on the Egyptian financial proposals were painful and unsatisfactory reading. With their eyes open the Government had sacrificed the interests of England. Last July France cleverly referred to the principle of the neutralisation of Egypt. Russia adroitly alluded to the principle of internationality and joint control in Egyptian affairs. What new fact since last July had revolutionised in any sense the position which made desirable now what last July the Ministry thought absolutely intolerable? It might be said that it was a good thing to get others to share the risk; but the French themselves said that the burden was absolutely nominal; that it could not impose any real charge on any Empire, because it was the first charge on the Budget. The fact was, then, that they gave us in Egypt a guarantee that was of no value whatever, and England, meekly, in return, made an admission capable of infinite expansion, and risked most terrible dangers. There was to be an inquiry into the revenues of Egypt in two years, and the Article on the Suez Canal showed that the Government had at last got an Egyptian policy, which policy was the endeavouring to secure in every way that the interests of all the nations of Europe should be provided for in Egypt except the interests of England. It had been said that the present Government were Quixotic. He denied that. It was a slander upon Don Quixote—(laughter)—for, if they had the madness they had none of the chivalry of Don Quixote. Whatever might be the result of the debate in the House, it was not for him to say. Its ways were inscrutable—(laughter)—but he had no doubt the Government would be condemned by the public opinion of the nation. (Cheers.)

Lieutenant-Colonel Cowan, addressing on Wednesday evening a meeting of the electors of the new borough of the Tower Hamlets, said he confessed that to approach political questions at this moment was a task of some pain, for he was bound to say that the Government had given them five years of blood and tears. The chairman had told them that this Government inherited "peace with honour," but the five years which had since transpired had very nearly destroyed both. They had had no peace, and they now had greatly diminished honour; trade and commerce had languished, and the present bitter cry of the unemployed would help them to realise this. If they had had a proper Government at the head of affairs they would never have had this result, but the period would have been one of great prosperity. When the historian came to write the history of these five years, he would do so in language something like this:—"Here was a period of England's history which was unexampled in the life of nations. The education of the people was at its highest point, the facilities for commerce were without comparison, and everything pointed to a most prosperous epoch of the country's history, but an unpatriotic Government undid all this." Adverting to the scheme under the Redistribution Bill of single-member constituencies, Colonel Cowan expressed entire approval of it, believing that it would lead to practical men of business superseding the doctrinaire men of the present day. The large sugar industries which once flourished in the Tower Hamlets had been sacrificed to the protective tariffs of foreign countries, which were fostered by the Liberals, and he apprehended the gravest consequences to the Tower Hamlets and to the shipping industry and mercantile marine of this country from the protective duties which were now given by the French Government on shipping and navigation. This matter was brought by deputation before Earl Granville, and he should not be betraying confidence if he told them that Earl Granville told the deputation that the Government did not intend to help the traders and shipowners by holding up a finger. Coming to foreign politics, he condemned in unequivocal language the whole policy of the Government. They were now on the eve of a great war with Russia, and the present complications had resulted from the endeavour of the Government to reverse the policy of its predecessors. Had Candahar been occupied by British troops, as was proposed by the late Government, they would never have had any Russian question at this moment. Passing to Egypt, he confessed he always approached that subject with saddened feelings and pangs of shame. The policy of the Government there had been silly and weak, and the life of General Gordon, a British envoy, and English honour had been bartered away for pence. The action of the colonies had recently been patriotically manifested towards this country, but this must not shut their eyes to the fact that in every one of their colonies there existed angry feeling at the action of the present Government in regard to them. He believed at the next election that the country would reverse the policy for which the present Government stood denounced by the common sense of the people and by the voice of Europe.

Mr. G. T. Bartley, late Principal Agent of the Conservative party, has explained to the editor of the *Times* the motives which induced him to withdraw from that post:—"The reason why, in November last, I sent in my resignation was because the steps which I considered to be absolutely necessary for placing the party in its proper position were not taken. The details of party management I cannot, for obvious reasons, enter into. It is sufficient to say that, in my judgment, the leaders—as indeed is openly acknowledged—have not been alive to the changes which have taken place, especially of late, and are not in harmony and touch with the great body of Conservatives among the middle and working classes throughout the country. The position which I held necessarily brought me into contact with many persons and organisations of Conservative principles throughout the country, and I am convinced that it has long been and is now the general opinion of Conservatives, as it is my own, that a distinct and definite line should be taken in all matters of great political moment. Simple criticism, obstruction, mild platitudes, and abuse, though they may pass in quiet times, will not now form an Opposition which can command the respect and confidence of the country. In critical times such as these, the leaders should announce and publicly advocate the firm, decided, and patriotic policy they would substitute for the feebleness of the Government. My experience convinces me that the reason why the great mass of moderate men—who, though perhaps calling themselves Liberals, yet hold their country dearer than their party—have not long ago combined with the Conservatives to stop the disastrous action of the Government has been due to the fact that on pretty well every occasion during the last five years, feeble and weak as the Government policy has been, that announced by the Opposition has been practically little better."

THE PRISONER ZEBEHR.

A gentleman in London has sent to a contemporary the following account of a visit he paid to Zebehr Pasha in May last, with the impressions he formed of the man who unquestionably possessed the greatest amount of influence over the native tribes of the Soudan north of Khartoum:—

"I was staying in Cairo in May last, and having been informed that arrangements had been made with Zebehr Pasha to send messengers through to General Gordon at Khartoum, I thought, before leaving for England, I would call upon Zebehr himself and ascertain if his messengers had really been despatched, and if so, what was the nature of their instructions. I accordingly called on Zebehr at his own residence quite unexpectedly one morning about nine o'clock, accompanied only by a dragoman from Shepheard's Hotel to act as an interpreter. On my arrival I was immediately shown into the garden or courtyard of his house, where I found the Pasha sitting in a saloon surrounded by about a dozen persons who were apparently in conference. As soon, however, as I was announced the company dispersed, with the exception of one Soudanese native, who remained to act as interpreter, and one or two Soudanese servants. Zebehr's personal appearance impressed me most favourably. He is a fine, agreeable-looking Arab. I was received very hospitably and with true politeness. He expressed the pleasure it gave him to see an Englishman, and then invited me to sit by his side on his couch while the servants were ordered to bring in cinnamon syrup, which we sipped together while conversing. I informed him that I was on a visit at Cairo and was about returning to England, but that before leaving I was anxious to learn some particulars of the messengers and the message that he had despatched to General Gordon. Zebehr replied he had sent to Khartoum two or three days prior to my visit a relative or member of his household, whom he expected would arrive at Khartoum in about forty days from the date of departure. I asked Zebehr if he would kindly allow me to see the copy of the letter sent by his messenger. At first he seemed rather unwilling to do so, but ultimately after some further conversation and a little pressure on my part, he requested his secretary to bring the book containing it. The letter was written in Arabic. Zebehr read two or three words at a time, the Soudanese interpreter translating and my own dragoman confirming and repeating the translation. In that letter Zebehr instructed the Soudanese tribes to protect Gordon Pasha, whom he declared to be his personal friend, and that if any harm was done to Gordon or any of his blood was shed, that they and their children would be disgraced in the eyes of all the Mussulmans and in the eyes of Europe. Zebehr told me, in reply to other questions which I addressed to him, that he had seen the statements published in the English newspapers of his alleged cruelty to slaves; for he had collected the papers and had all the references to himself translated into Arabic. He supposed the newspapers had been paid by the English Government to write against him. I told him he was mistaken about that. It was not the Government, but the English people who had a very strong impression that he had been guilty of great cruelties, and this was the only reason why the Government had been unwilling to let him go to Khartoum when urged to do so by General Gordon. Zebehr denied the accusation made against him, and asked, if we thought him so guilty, why had he not been taken to England to be tried, when he could have proved that he was innocent? The desire to be taken to England for a fair trial was evidently very strong upon Zebehr, but he objected to being kept an indefinite time under the surveillance of the authorities in Cairo. He bitterly complained that his property in the Soudan, which he valued at £900,000—(I told him he must mean £90,000, but he persisted that it was £900,000)—had been taken away from him, and that in consequence he was experiencing great difficulty in providing for the expenses of his household. If England would only assist him in getting some of his property restored he would always be true and faithful to England. On my taking leave of him, Zebehr expressed himself as very pleased with my visit, and observed that Englishmen in Cairo seldom came to see him, and that the English authorities derived the only knowledge of natives which they possessed from prejudiced sources. The impression I formed at the time was that if Zebehr was judiciously managed he would be a great help to us in dealing with the Soudan question and restoring peace and good government there. But I had little doubt that he was at that very time in constant communication with the French party in Cairo as well as with the Mahdi and his followers, and unless we took him in hand in a diplomatic way he would give us a good deal of trouble. And that I believe was Gordon's own view. Notwithstanding what may have happened since, I am still rather disposed to think that we may still find him helpful in assisting us to arrange terms of peace with the Soudanese chiefs."

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LONDON, March 28.

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

The imminent expectation of war on the Afghan frontier, and the details of actual fighting in the Eastern Soudan, have divided between them popular attention during the past week. Neither in the one direction nor in the other is the outlook pleasant. It is, indeed, somewhat of a comfort to think that Lord Dufferin and not Lord Ripon is our Pro-consul in India at the present time. He has shown himself as full of energy and vigour as his predecessor would have been wanting in those valuable qualities. *Si vis pacem, bellum para* is a maxim which he has not forgotten and, if we do escape from the present crisis without being plunged into war with Russia, we shall doubtless owe our escape in a great measure to the determination with which our Governor-General has pushed forward his preparations. It might have been thought that the warning of the Crimean War, into which we drifted because our Government could not make up its mind to show a determined front, and because the Emperor Nicholas could not believe that we really meant fighting, would have been sufficient to prevent the recurrence of a similar untoward event. But history repeats itself, and if we are launched upon a struggle with the Czar it will be brought about by his inability to recognise that we are really in earnest in defending the Afghan frontier against Russian aggression. We have heard but little of the progress of negotiations during the past week, but what little we have heard points to the display of an unusual and welcome degree of backbone by our Ministry. Probably Mr. Gladstone himself now regrets that his jealousy of Lord Beaconsfield should have led to his undoing the good work of his predecessor in making preparations for the inevitable struggle which he foresaw, but Mr. Gladstone would not see. Had the G. O. M. followed up that policy, however much it would have reflected on the Midlothian utterances, it would have insured our being in a better position to resist the present outbreak of Russian aggression, even if it had not prevented that outbreak altogether.

Even now we trust that the Czar's advisers will be induced to believe that it is with Mr. Gladstone the Prime Minister, not with Mr. Gladstone the stump-orator, that they have at present to deal. Difficult as it may be for them to realise that all he formerly said was solely directed to the patriotic object of driving from office a hated rival, and that he does not in reality sympathise with Russia against England, it is to be hoped in the interests of peace that they will be able to realise it. The calling out of the reserve forces and the military preparations which are being pushed forward both here and in India are evidence of the serious intention of the Government now at all events to put their foot down which it is impossible for the most enthusiastic student of Mr. Gladstone's past utterances to overlook. We are opportunely reminded that it was the taking of the first of these measures of precaution by Lord Beaconsfield which contributed so much to Lord Derby's retirement from office, and also that Mr. Gladstone was very sarcastic at the time in reference to such a precautionary measure. Fortunately, at the present time, we have no politician on the Opposition benches whose personal vanity is hurt by a display of Ministerial vigour. So we need fear no repetition of such sarcasms, and as Lord Derby has not as yet sent in his resignation, we must assume that he considers the present position of affairs more dangerous than the position of affairs when Russia was at the gates of Constantinople. Certainly it is more dangerous in one respect, as so much has been done in the interval to lower the prestige of the country. Nor can we forget that we owe to Mr. Gladstone the abandonment of the Quetta railway, which, if completed as Lord Beaconsfield desired, would have been of such priceless value to us in the present emergency.

Turning from our troubles in Afghanistan to our troubles in the Soudan, we have to chronicle a series of sharp skirmishes with Osman Digma, which have been elevated by shouting newsboys and large-type placards into "brilliant victories," but which certainly fall very far short of what is usually meant by such a term. We have, indeed, every reason to rejoice at the pluck shown by officers and men; and, unpleasant reading as the narratives of the correspondents certainly are in most respects, there are not a few incidents of individual bravery which must stir the blood of the most unsympathising reader. But when we have said this there is nothing else pleasant to be said. Neither the generalship shown nor the results attained can be regarded with anything like satisfaction. We have never been of the number of those who approve of newspaper criticisms on armies in the field, but we are doing no more than echoing the universal opinion in military circles when we comment on the apparent neglect by Sir John M'Neill of the ordinary precautions which, slightly to vary Lord Macaulay's favourite phrase, any Sandhurst or Woolwich cadet would have taken under similar circumstances. That fatal contempt for the enemy which is so often the bane of English generals was never exemplified in a more striking manner than in Sir John's conduct of Sunday's advance, and the result must have been a terrible disaster had it not been for the valour and steadiness of our young officers and soldiers under circumstances which might have caused a panic even among veteran troops. As it was, it can hardly be called a brilliant victory when a detached force of the enemy has succeeded in destroying a large amount of the stores of our main body; and the return of the troops to Souakim must have appeared to the Arabs whom they had with so much difficulty beaten off very much in the light of one of those "strategic move-"ments" which the American Civil War substituted for retreats in the Federal vocabulary.

It is true that we killed a great many of the "brave men fighting for their liberty," to whom Mr. Gladstone once referred so eloquently, and not a few women and children shared their fate, for it seems as if the whole tribe of Hadendowas turned out to resist us. But these questionable advantages were not obtained without serious loss on our part, and the zareba at Hasheen, the scene of so much bravery on both sides, had to be abandoned, though we still retain some advanced posts, the provisioning of which by convoys has not been accomplished without renewed encounters with the enemy, in which we have hitherto been successful without losing many men since the great struggle of Sunday. Why that day of rest should have been chosen for the advance we are not told, and unless there was some actual necessity for its selection it adds another to the unpleasant features of the story. Nor is the great destruction of camels, which is a serious addition to the already great difficulties of transport with which we have to contend, to be altogether passed over in silence. The distance of the proposed zareba being only seven miles, it was surely unnecessary that more than the camels actually required to convey the necessary stores for its construction should have been sent out with the working parties, and the camels with the remaining stores should have followed when some place for their reception had been prepared.

No small addition to the deep regret which is felt at the loss of so many valuable lives with so small a result, from a military point of view, is that, from a political point of view, the sacrifice is equally fruitless. Not only does it seem clear that, even if we do fight our way to Berber and do succeed in laying down the railway which is to bring Khartoum within measurable distance of the sea, we are—if the Government remains in office—to scuttle out again as soon as possible, and leave friendly tribes to their fate and the railway to destruction, but even as regards Egypt itself we are to reap no fruit from our expenditure of blood and treasure. The complete surrender made by the Financial Convention abandons everything on which even our Ministers themselves have insisted. It can cause little surprise that the news of it should have been received with "stupefaction" in Cairo. The Multiple Control, which we were never to admit, and the bare suggestion of which made Lord Granville last summer break up the Conference with the nearest approach to discourtesy of which that politest of all statesmen is capable, is, it appears, an accomplished fact. Mr. Childers last week gave us to understand that the European guarantee of the projected loan involved no interference by the guaranteeing Powers with the affairs of Egypt. This somewhat surprised those who remembered Lord Granville's arguments at the Conference, but led them to expect that some precise and clear stipulations had been introduced into the new Convention which guarded us against the possibility of its being used as a lever for the introduction of an international control as the result of the international guarantee. But on Monday Mr. Childers explained that there were no such stipulations, and all that he meant was that nothing was said about it either one way or the other! This is perhaps as startling a specimen of blundering—to use the mildest term—as even the annals of the present Ministry afford. A proposal which was rejected in the summer because it must of necessity involve Multiple Control is, when accepted in the following spring, to be deemed sufficiently guarded against involving Multiple Control by the absence of any express reference to it. Even Mr. Gladstone's marvellous powers of hair-splitting, refining, and glossing over could not make out a plausible case in support of the Convention on Thursday evening, and the obedient Liberals who rallied in its support last night have not even the excuse that they were led astray by their leader's eloquence. But once again party discipline has done its proper work, and a sufficient majority of Ministerialists has been found now, as on previous occasions, to answer to the crack of Lord Richard Grosvenor's whip.

The change which President Cleveland has deemed it necessary to make in regard to the representation of the United States Government at the Court of St. James's is regarded by many Englishmen in the light of a personal grievance. Mr. Lowell has made himself so popular among us, and has so completely sunk the politician in the man of letters that he has obtained a more complete adoption into the ranks of English society than any of his predecessors. Though no doubt the principle that the victors are entitled to the spoil has so completely established itself in American politics, that any departure from it would in ordinary cases be regarded as a want of faithfulness to the victorious party, the case of Mr. Lowell was no ordinary case, and there was a general impression that the President would not in his case insist on his strict party rights. That impression has, however, proved to be unfounded, and our genial guest has to make way for an unknown stranger. The nomination of his successor occasioned no little surprise, not only here, but in America; and the Senate, with unusual circumspection, postponed its assent to Mr. Phelps's appointment. Mr. Lowell has, with innate chivalry, done all he can to smooth the way for his successor, and writes to protest against the assumption that he is an unknown and obscure personage. We are glad to take on trust his assertion that Mr. Phelps is "a man of high "character, of marked independence, and of the "most agreeable social qualities." These are not the terms in which an ordinary American politician would speak of the rival who was to supplant him. That Mr. Lowell should have shown himself so superior to the ordinary American politician as to be able to indulge in them only adds to our regret that political exigencies should have compelled his removal from the post which he has so well filled, even to make way for what he describes as so promising a successor.

The House of Lords yesterday week was occupied in the discussion of that phase of the Sunday Closing Question which presents the most favourable opportunity to those who are anxious to undermine our English Sunday. Lord Thurlow's proposal for the opening of the Natural History Museum on Sunday afternoons, after having been discussed with no little vigour and some acrimony, was finally rejected by the casting vote of the Lord Chancellor, given according to all precedent against the proposal. The question is one which may be acknowledged not to be free from difficulty, and we are by no means inclined to advocate the strict Sabbatarian view which finds its fullest expression in the horror of our Scotch cousins at anybody looking happy "on the Sawbath." But at the same time we must admit the weight of the arguments urged against Lord Thurlow's proposal in no narrow Jewish spirit, but with an honest endeavour to preserve to our poorer classes the benefit of their Sunday rest. We know that the "thin end of the wedge" argument is much derided by advanced thinkers, but there is a good deal of truth in it all the same. If the opening of the national museums on Sunday is conceded, the opening of other places of entertainment must follow, and our English Sunday will soon be degraded to the Continenal level. Nor, when we once relax the rule, can we stop short at places of amusement. Work and business of all kinds must follow, and that much-needed Sunday rest so indispensable alike for soul and body will be lost to us and our children for ever. Putting aside for the moment all reasons based upon the religious element and upon the Divine command, it is obvious that of our day of rest, regarded simply from the point of view of the secularist, we must speak as Robespierre did of the existence of a Supreme Being. If there were not one it would be necessary to invent one in the interests of ordinary humanity.

The premature death of Sir Harry Parkes is a serious loss to the country at large. We can ill afford at the present crisis to lose those who have shown themselves full of vigour and energy, capable of acting for themselves in an emergency and not deficient in that moral courage which is, we fear, growing rarer and rarer among our public men. His career was a remarkable one, and representing, as he did, a phase of our official intercourse with the Government of the Celestial Empire which has all but passed away, his influence with the Mandarins and local authorities far exceeded that of the ordinary Englishman. It will be very difficult to supply his place; to fill it will be impossible. Not only had he rare experience in the diplomacy of the East, but his "high "courage, inflexible resolution, and unwavering "confidence in the destinies of England," to which so eloquent a tribute has been paid in the columns of the leading journal, rendered him admirably suited to represent his country at the present critical period of our relations with China. We are brought face to face with several complications in those relations. Questions will of necessity arise in regard to our rights as neutrals in the Franco-Chinese war, in the solution of which a British Minister at Pekin who had won his spurs in China, and whose determined character was well known to those with whom he had to deal, was an invaluable factor. It is not necessary here to review the history of his past career, or to recall once more the chivalrous spirit with which he bore himself when brought a prisoner into the presence of the Chinese authorities at Pekin. His great knowledge of the language added not a little to the value of his services, and pointed him out for the high position which he had assumed but for so short a time when death came upon him so suddenly, and to all human appearance so prematurely. Nor is it only in public life that his loss will be felt; he was a universal favourite with those with

whom he was brought into contact in domestic life. As a private man it may be said of him, "*Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit;*" as a public man it must be added, "*Nulli flebilior quam tibi Britannia.*"

We have elsewhere commented at length upon the loss which the Church of England has sustained in the death of the late Bishop of Lincoln, who passed away early on Saturday morning last. But no history of the past week would be complete which made no reference to that loss. Dr. Wordsworth was an ideal Bishop. Learned far above the standard of learning, pious far above the standard of piety, and generous far above the standard of generosity in these degenerate days, he combined with these nobler attributes a skill in the government of men which does not always accompany them. His administration of his diocese was a model to his Episcopal brethren, and he more than justified the penetration shown by the late Premier in selecting him for the important post which he occupied. He had for many years been passed over in the race, owing, it is said, to his opposition to the Prince Consort's nomination as Chancellor of Cambridge; and those who are always writing on the superiority of Mr. Gladstone's ecclesiastical appointments over those of his predecessor should at least remember that the late Bishop of Lincoln was Lord Beaconsfield's, and not Mr. Gladstone's, nomination. Even when his failing health and his heavy domestic affliction compelled him to retire from the post which he had occupied with so much distinction he showed a rare example of generosity and self-sacrifice. He declined to avail himself of the advantages which the law allowed him, and would not even retain the episcopal residence at Riseholme. He wished that his successor in the spiritual cure of the See should at once enter into all its temporal advantages. Nor was this all: his munificence in regard to the new diocese which was carved out of that which he had ruled so efficiently puts to shame others better able than he was to afford the sacrifice. It is pleasant to think that his noble qualities have won recognition even in the most unexpected quarters, and Mr. Labouchere in *Truth* has spoken out as strongly as anyone in praise of this model English Bishop. Known to the world at large as scholar, divine, and administrator, he was known within the narrower circle of his own friends and relatives as the kindest, most true-hearted, and most unselfish of men.

IS IT TO BE WAR?

On all sides the feeling unmistakeably gains ground that, in spite of Mr. Gladstone's "arrangement," we are much nearer war with Russia than we were a week ago. Lord Granville's assurances last evening amounted to very little indeed. He declared that the Government had no thought of "flinching." That is a kind of phrase which we are getting accustomed to think has not much meaning on the lips of Her Majesty's present advisers, though it may be that that they are really bent on making a firm stand. While the opinion of well-informed politicians throughout Europe continues to point to a peaceful issue of the Afghan frontier question, the fact of our warlike preparations both at home and in India is taken as an indication that in reality we are already within a measurable distance of the brink of the abyss. Here in England all is bustle and activity. Our ships are being got ready for active service, including a fleet of ironclads for service in the North Sea; our regular and militia reserves, amounting to 70,000 men, are to be called out, and from 15,000 to 20,000 men will shortly be ready to be sent to India, where at a military conference held at Allahabad on Thursday the Viceroy decided that two army corps of 25,000 men each, with a reserve of 10,000 men, should at once be mobilised and take the field at once under Sir Donald Stewart. This force of 60,000 men is, in fact, already equipped in readiness for active service. It is believed that a total British force of 80,000 men can, if need be, be collected at Herat in a fortnight. It is evident that the Viceroy and his military advisers have not been taken by surprise, and are fully prepared for every emergency. In a few days the long-expected meeting between the Viceroy and the Ameer is to take place at Rawul Pindee, in the Punjaub. Lord Dufferin is accompanied by a force of 20,000 men, and there are also present besides the civil dignitaries the Commander-in-Chief of India and the Commanders of the Bombay and Madras Armies. A number of independent native Princes are also attending the durbar. The Nizam of Hyderabad sends a representative, and on Thursday Lord Dufferin, on his way to Rawul Pindee, was met by the Maharajahs Scindia and Holkar, who formally placed their armies at the disposal of the Empress of India. All this is satisfactory as far as it goes, though no one who knows anything of the state of India will be inclined to place implicit faith in the loyal professions of the native Princes. The true test of their loyalty would be forthcoming in the event of the British forces meeting with any serious difficulties in their operations against Russia.

It was only to be expected that these energetic preparations should excite apprehensions as to the maintenance of peace. Of course, it is undeniable that they signify the imminent possibility of war—possibility, we say; not necessarily probability. In one sense they are calculated to ensure peace, because the old adage, *Si vis pacem, para bellum*, is above all things applicable to a quarrel with Russia. In fact, the real danger to peace (so far as it comes from our side) lies not in these warlike preparations, but in the well-known squeezeableness of our Government, of which one conspicuous instance has lately occurred in the "arrangement" permitting Russia to hold the territory she has already seized. The danger is that Russia may be tempted to presume too much on Mr. Gladstone's tendency to yield whenever sufficient pressure is forthcoming. So far as these warlike measures of the British and Indian Governments are concerned, therefore, energy and boldness are the very things most calculated to promote peace. As to what the intentions of Russia may be, we are left in the dark. It seems certain that she can never hope for a better chance of carrying out her schemes in Asia than is presented to her now. The fact that so large a number of our best troops are locked up in Africa; that we are without allies in Europe; and, above all, that Mr. Gladstone is in office—all this offers Russia the strongest inducement to proceed with the execution of her designs. The facility with which she can bring up vast numbers of troops to fight on the Afghan frontier has been fully demonstrated by Sir Edward Hamley. All she wants is time, and that is just what she is trying to gain by prolonging the negotiations. At any rate we may rest assured that she will never, unless forced to do so, withdraw from the territory she now occupies. It may be that she will defer advancing farther into Afghanistan for a time; but, even so, she will have the satisfaction of having made a distinct move forward towards her ultimate goal. The conclusion we are inclined to form is this—that if the question of Peace or War turns upon the possession of what is called "the disputed territory," there will be no war, because our Government will give in; but that, if Russia is determined to advance further towards Herat, beyond even the frontier she has herself claimed, then war must follow as a matter of course.

Meanwhile the apologist of Russia in the British press, the *Pall Mall Gazette*, continues instant in its outcries on behalf of our foe. The *Pall Mall Gazette* invites us all to believe that the question at issue is, not whether Russia is to be permitted to threaten India, but whether Penjdeh is lawfully held by the Afghans or not. The true story, we are assured, is, that it was the Afghans who treacherously seized the debateable position of Penjdeh, pending negotiations as to the delimitation of the frontier; and that Russia has since been compelled to adopt the retaliatory measure of seizing the remainder of the debateable territory. Lord Granville stated last night that the Afghans occupied Penjdeh before—not, as the *Pall Mall Gazette* implied, after—Sir Peter Lumsden received his instructions. Our contemporary's argument seems to be based upon the doctrine that Russia has a right to declare "debateable" any territory she chooses, and to act accordingly. It seems rather unfortunate, however, that this line of reasoning does not seem to have been adopted by the Russian Government itself. In the statements made in Parliament it has never been hinted that Russia had advanced to her present positions in retaliation for the Afghan occupation of Penjdeh, but simply because she claimed the whole of the territory as pertaining to the Merv Turcomans. This very convincing argument on behalf of Russia appears now, therefore, for the first time. In any case, why should Russia continue to defer the work of delimiting the frontier? And why, let us also ask, does not our Government insist on the delimitation being at once begun instead of wasting time in discussing where the process of delimitation is to be conducted? Lord Salisbury, with good reason, remarked last night that any sign of flinching might produce great evils in India. The fact is that all these warlike preparations, though they certainly mean that we shall defend Herat itself from aggression (for *that* we must defend anyhow), do not in the least mean that the Government intends to be firm on the frontier question. Their surrender to Russia on the question of occupying the positions she has seized, and their present shilly-shallying on the delimitation question, alike forbid us to trust in their remaining firm. Whatever else happens, the English people had better make up its mind that the frontier claimed by Russia is really as good as conceded already—in other words, that, as far as they dare, our Radical Government has already broken its pledges, betrayed the Ameer, and strengthened Russia.

UNDER COMPULSION.

Mr. Bourke was right when he observed that the freedom of Parliament has become a perfect farce. The House of Commons, acting under the compulsion of a Minister who is himself coerced by a foreign Coalition, last night ratified a Convention of which it is not too much to say that a compact more disgraceful, more degrading, more injurious, or more humiliating to this country has hardly been known in the history of England. In order to protect our communications with India, the British nation has for years past intervened in the affairs of Egypt, and has made and is still making an almost unexampled sacrifice of brave lives as well as a vast expenditure to secure that end. A demand has now been advanced by foreign Powers that the country which has sacrificed so much should not only practically forego the fruits of her labour, but should continue to toil on, not for her own benefit, but for theirs. All the drudgery and hard work is to be performed by us; the rewards are to be reaped by others. That is the plain meaning of the Convention, let Mr. Gladstone say what he will. The Duke of Marlborough observed the other day that this Convention is the coping-stone of the edifice of Radical mismanagement. It is, indeed. It is a fitting crown to a career of unequalled blundering, inconceivable blindness, and incredible perversity. As we contemplate it, we can only feel with Mr. Gibson that it is "not merely stupid, but "maddening."

The juggling sophistries—they deserve no higher epithet—employed by the Prime Minister to justify this miserable Convention were ingenious with an ingenuity which is either above or beneath criticism: it is difficult to say which—so contemptible was his aim and so transcendental was his reasoning. He endeavoured to puzzle his audience by at one moment protesting that the Convention involved no International Control, and that the Government would never have consented to it if it had, while at the next he defended International Control in Egypt on the ground of precedent. He did not condescend to explain what motive the other Powers could have had in intervening in the matter, unless it were to obtain a control over Egyptian administration. Mr. Bruce's reasoning on this point was simply unanswerable. "Why," he asked, "is this a joint "guarantee? We all know that, as a mere "financial operation, a loan guaranteed by "England is as good as, if not better "than, one guaranteed by the other "Powers. It certainly is giving no help to "Egyptian finance to make this loan a joint "guarantee, and the only object of the Powers "in insisting on it must have been that they "hoped to gain an equal position with this "country in controlling the affairs of Egypt." There lies the case in a nutshell. It really leaves nothing more to be said. What we really must call the barefaced impudence of Mr. Gladstone's assertion that the Convention does not involve an International Control is proved by the fact that only a few months ago Ministers themselves declared that this very arrangement would give the European Powers "a mastery "over the government and affairs of Egypt." The Chancellor of the Exchequer declared at the Conference last year that Parliament could not be expected or asked to assent to an international guarantee. Mr. Gladstone cited several instances to show that there can be such a thing as an international guarantee without an international control. Even if it were so, there is no analogy whatever between the former cases of Greece and Turkey and the present case of Egypt. As Mr. Bruce forcibly observed, "this "Egyptian Government is merely a form." It is we who are the real Government of Egypt; and Mr. Bourke literally tore the plea to shreds when he pointed out that, in the instances relied on by the Prime Minister, "the object sought was one "equally important to both parties," whereas, "by the present Guarantee, "the credit of "England is pledged to enable the other "Powers to snatch from us all that we have "gained in Egypt." Nor does the injury which this Convention inflicts upon this country stop even here. Though the Powers assume the right of interference, it is we who are still to bear the weight of responsibility. If any mishaps arise, it is we, not they, who are answerable. They do not propose to touch the burden with one of their little fingers. The financial credit of England is to be employed to counteract the want of credit of a Power like Russia. The whole work of maintaining order in Egypt, and of defending her against danger from without, is to rest with us. And for what object? Simply that the foreign bondholders may be paid. Not a scrap of help in this work shall we obtain from any of the Powers, singly or jointly. England is to be their catspaw. "Nobody grudges us the performance of our "duty," cries Mr. Gladstone. We should think not, indeed!

And now, when we have cleared away from our minds all this wretched heap of false pretences, transparent subterfuges, and contemptible prevarications, what, let us ask, is the real cause which underlies the peremptory demand of the Powers to share with us the control of Egyptian affairs? Is it actually the fact that the financial position of Egypt is so desperate that unless this Convention had been agreed upon the bankruptcy of the country must ensue? Mr. Bruce, than whom no greater authority on the subject exists, deliberately declares that, having been for many years familiar with the finance of Oriental countries, he "did not think "he ever knew one of them so far "from bankruptcy as Egypt." Even if the plea had been a true one, the argument would amount, as Lord John Manners remarked, to an admission that the Government themselves had brought the financial affairs of Egypt to a hopeless state of confusion. In reality, however, the excuse of imminent bankruptcy altogether breaks down. No: the plain truth, as we have often pointed out, is simply that our Radical Government has chosen to alienate our former allies and is now paying the penalty. This Convention is born of French intrigue; and we know now what Prince Bismarck meant when he said that after the English Ministry had rejected his overtures he had had recourse to an understanding with France. We repeat that this Convention crowns the Gladstonian edifice. Five years ago the English people sowed the wind: to-day they reap the whirlwind.

IRISH EDUCATION.

The Government have this week laid before Parliament two measures relating to Irish education. On Monday was read a second time, in the House of Lords, a Bill relative to educational endowments, similar to one introduced late last Session which reached the same stage, but disappeared with all other Government measures after the failure of the Franchise Bill. In its general structure it is founded on the English Endowed Schools Act. In certain points, however, the difference is marked. Nor are the variations solely owing to the different requirements of the two sides of St. George's Channel. In some points the Bill follows more closely the Act passed by the present Parliament for Scotland. Its principles may, therefore, probably be taken to represent the mind of the present Parliament on all such legislation. The English Act is a temporary one, renewable from time to time. It was to have been this year the subject of a Parliamentary inquiry, likely to be postponed to next Session under pressure of business. Such English educational endowments as have not yet been dealt with under existing Acts are not uninterested in the tendencies displayed by the Bill in question. In one point we think it differs from the English Act for the better. In Clause 13 it is plainly stated that those who administer the Act are always to have regard to the spirit of founders' intentions. The English Act is ambiguous on this point. The preamble only refers to the main intentions of the founders, which are defined as being to place a liberal education within the reach of all classes. It has been contended that this reference is only to the intentions of the founders as a body. How far the intention of a particular founder might be opposed to the general objects of the Act was a question which those who desired to do so might answer in the least friendly spirit to the "pious founder." Those who wished loyally to carry out the Act might, whatever their own preference might be, feel in doubt how far they were entitled to maintain the views of the founder against the policy of the Legislature. Such a clear declaration as that of the Irish Act is one which might well find a place in all similar measures.

The same clause especially provides that endowments for the benefit of children of the poorer classes shall continue as far as is requisite to be applied for the benefit of children of those classes. These words are, in addition to others, borrowed from the English Act requiring due regard to be shown to the educational interests of any class whose privileges are abolished. They seem, therefore, to imply that those words are not sufficient, and to be meant to meet Mr. Chamberlain's and Mr. Jesse Collings' objections to the poor being deprived of their endowments. It is not clear whether they are directed against what has been often done in schemes for English endowments, the application of part of endowments especially intended to educate poor children to the establishment of scholarships at higher schools to be competed for by children from elementary schools. In England there are reasons for believing that the benefit intended to be conferred on the poor by the founders of mediæval and Tudor grammar schools is more closely represented by such a system than by the application of the funds to mere elementary education. In Ireland, where foundations are generally of a later date, this is perhaps less in accordance with their original objects. But the intention of the provision in the Act is not clear, and may be variously interpreted according to the views of those who administer it concerning the proper application of endowments. In Ireland, where there is not, as there is in England since 1870, a legal provision in one form or other for elementary education in every locality, it cannot be argued with the same force that an endowment for elementary education simply relieves ratepayers and subscribers from the burden of providing it themselves.

Another divergence from English precedent is the unlimited power given to apply to educational purposes endowments for the apprenticeship, clothing, and nurture of children, even when these endowments are not connected with any school. In England such power is limited to endowments of this kind when so connected. In other cases they can only be made so applicable with the consent of the governing body of the charity. We doubt if this permission is altogether wise. It might be used in an arbitrary and unpopular manner by Commissioners inclined to despotic action. But more often, perhaps, it would defeat its own object. The formal assent of a governing body makes it a sharer in the responsibility of those who administer the Act. What, coming from them alone, would be extremely invidious, is likely to obtain a far more favourable reception if stamped with the approval of the guardians of the charity itself. It is right that when not opposed to the application of the whole or part of those funds to educational purposes, they should be called upon to express their acquiescence officially. As willing co-operators, their necessary assent will be of great use to any central body, and in the face of their determined dissent, it would often be difficult and unwise to proceed. But the most striking unlikeness of the Irish Bill to English legislation is its omission of all reference to the denominational question. In England the 17th and 19th sections of the Act deal distinctly with the matter, the first introducing, as regards governing bodies, an undenominational principle, the second exempting from it schools where the instrument of foundation contained certain expressions, or in other specified ways indicated the connection of the school with the Church or any other religious body. There is much in these clauses not altogether satisfactory to Churchmen, and the attempt to improve them in 1874 was abortive. But all parties would probably feel alarm if in this matter they were left to the unlimited and unguided discretion of whoever might administer the Act. In this Bill, however, as in the Scotch Act, no indication is given of how the Commissioners are to deal with this matter. In Scotland it was, perhaps, assumed that the difficulties on this subject would be less serious than in England. But it can hardly be anticipated that the questions between Anglicans, Roman Catholics, and Presbyterians in Ireland will be less productive of eager conflict than those between Church and Dissent in England. But it is open to whoever may be the Commissioners to undenominationalise all schools, to prescribe that the doctrines of a particular religious body should be taught in any of them, to impose or not impose a Conscience Clause. Institutions mainly for theological instruction are wholly out of their jurisdiction, but over others their prerogative is in this respect unbounded. We doubt whether the immense responsibility thus cast on those who will administer the Act will be acceptable to themselves.

We can well imagine that they will regard with no small dismay the thorny problems whose settlement in each case is thus imposed upon them, equally difficult whether they determine to deal with each case wholly on its special merits, or to frame rules for themselves which in all probability will dissatisfy all parties alike. Last year, when the measure was before the House of Lords, several peers remarked on this omission. It may, perhaps, create further discussion in the Upper House, where an apprehension may be felt as to the position of what are now Protestant endowments, if manipulated by the nominees of a Government anxious to conciliate the support of the Irish priesthood. But the Bill will probably have to pass through a far more formidable ordeal in the House of Commons. It will there probably be attacked on opposite grounds, as not giving recognition to the claims of the religion of the majority, whose representatives would be satisfied with nothing but the establishment of denominational teaching of their own in all institutions for national education. It will also be exposed to the hostility likely to be shown to any measure relating to Irish affairs proceeding at present from the Imperial Government. Something of this has already been the case as regards the measure relative to primary education. Involving as it does financial matters, it had to be introduced in the first instance into the House of Commons. Its object is to introduce compulsory education into Ireland, and also to give increased remuneration to teachers.

It does not propose to introduce into Ireland rate-supported schools and elective Boards. Schools controlled by the ratepayers would be incompatible with the present national system, assailed as it is by the popular party. The mass of Roman Catholic ratepayers would insist on denominational schools. The elective Boards would probably, like other local elective bodies, discuss everything besides their business. They would become Nationalist committees or debating clubs, would appoint schoolmasters noted for their political as much as their educational qualifications, and make every textbook on history or similar subjects a means of instilling anti-English sentiments into the minds of the scholars. What is proposed is to form an authority respresenting bodies now concerned with education and rating, with powers of compelling attendance. As schools are not everywhere provided, exceptions are allowed for children who have no school they can conveniently attend, and a further concession is made to those who have no school which they can attend without evidence of their religious convictions. Such an exception is probably a necessity in Ireland, and it is worth the notice of the large number of English Liberals who wished to compel all children whose school fees were paid for them to attend the Board school, whether they preferred or not a Voluntary school with denominational religious teaching. The nearest approach made to a school rate is in the rate to be levied on all unions to contribute towards the salaries of teachers throughout the country; a proposal which may meet with some local opposition, and cannot but be distasteful to those who are opposed to the system of which these teachers are the embodiment.

The speech of Mr. Sexton foreshadows the attitude of the Home Rule members towards the Bill. The dislike of a poor rural population to anything which may interfere with the earnings of their children, the dislike of the Roman Catholic clergy and their adherents to anything but a denominational system going beyond the ideas of almost any advocate of the denominational principle in England, will be combined in support of the attitude of determined opposition to English legislation which characterises the Home Rule party and its representatives. The support of moderate Irish Liberals, which appears likely to be given to the measure, will probably be of little help.

They are precisely those who are least likely to be again returned to Parliament, though for that very reason they may be able to express their opinions with greater freedom. It is not clear whether the proposal will be favoured by Irish Conservatives. Its prospects are not very hopeful, and it may very probably be added to the list of Ministerial failures. The Endowments Bill in a more or less altered form may be more fortunate. Its working will largely depend on the individuals to whom its large powers are entrusted. If imprudent, they may easily create a ferment still more serious than that which was excited by the early proceedings of the first Endowed Schools Commissions in England. Meanwhile, those who are interested in what is still to be done with many English endowments may watch with interest the indications of a new departure in the legislation of the present Parliament with regard to endowments in other parts of the United Kingdom.

CHRISTOPHER WORDSWORTH.

On Wednesday, after the election of the new Bishop of Lincoln, the remains of his venerated predecessor were laid by the side of his true helpmeet in Riseholme Churchyard. The grave has claimed its due too soon to add to the public loss sustained in the resignation we have all deplored. When the Master's work is done it is well for the good and faithful servant to enter into his rest. The unabated sorrow of the Church was testified by the concourse of clergy and laity, headed by the Primate of All England, who joined in the preliminary service at the Cathedral; and more would doubtless have attended on any other day than a Wednesday in Lent. Some great men have been forgotten from the paucity of their remains, others from the fleeting nature of their work or the degeneration of posterity. It will be an unexpected day of evil to the Church of England which shall ever pale the lustre that crowns the name of Christopher Wordsworth.

The number and variety of his published works would alone command attention, while their surpassing excellence is absolutely astonishing. The list, as the *Times* observes, "fills pages in the catalogues of public libraries." "Scarcely a department of research can be "mentioned in which he has not achieved per-"sonal distinction. He was a pioneer of "English tourists in Greece. He was the "first to bring the more modern in senti-"ment of Greek poets within the range "of ordinary English scholarship. For "eight years he was at the head of one of the "most celebrated of English public schools. "He has plunged with undaunted courage into "the darkest depths of every theological con-"troversy. He has been heard at Old Catho-"lic Congresses. He has explained the Papacy "to the Popes. He has demonstrated in ex-"cellent Latin prose to the Prelates of Spain "that their proper place is in communion "with the Church of England. . . . Ap-"proved or condemned, he has ever been "acknowledged to be unimpeachably con-"scientious and honourable, and learned and "generous." This is the testimony of the outside world: for the higher life—the true and enduring labour of the greatest English Churchman of the age—perhaps of any age—we must wait for a biographer of truer touch and deeper insight. One further remark may be accepted from the *Times*. "His sym-"pathies were High Church of the pre-"Tractarian type, Catholic, but anti-Roman, "strongly dogmatic, and possibly a little "antiquated." We should prefer to say "certainly," and "*not* a little." His dogma was as "antiquated" as the Catholic faith which he defended against all heresy, whether of doctrine or politics. As a Bishop the clergy of the diocese do not agree with the outside observer that he was misplaced at Lincoln. Dr. Wordsworth was vicar of a parish in Berkshire for nineteen years, and not less beloved as a country parson than in the more shining spheres of the University, the Public School, and the Royal Abbey. Student and theologian as he was, the Lincolnshire peasantry hung upon his lips as attentively as the distinguished congregations at Westminster. He was never seen to more advantage than at the opening of a village church, when—instead of rushing off, as so many Prelates do, in the whirl and vortex of successive engagements, which seems to be now the accepted type of a working Bishop—he took his seat at the rural festivity, stood and sauntered on the lawn, chatting pleasantly with all comers, giving a much-prized word or two to a modest clergyman who would never dream of asking an audience at the Palace, and going to church again in the afternoon to hear, and perhaps commend, the sermon of a smaller man. In truth, really great men are never in a hurry, and a Bishop is greatest as well as best when he makes the leisure so indispensable to pastoral intercourse with little people. We do not think the Bishop would have been happier, or the Church better served, if Lord Beaconsfield, in repairing the discreditable oversight of his predecessors, had been able (as it was said he wished) to elevate the long-neglected Canon to the See of London.

We have spoken of the Bishop as the greatest of English Churchmen. Comparisons are proverbially odious, but only when dictated by envy or resented by vanity. Our comparison is with those whom we would highly esteem, and who would be the first to rejoice in another's praise. It is by comparison that we know the magnitude of the stars. The name that we love best in the illustrious annals of our Reformed Church is Lancelot Andrewes, and it is no disparagement to our love and reverence to say that even he, in the advance of learning, science, and travel, has been surpassed, not in industry, faith, or piety, but in extent of research and arguments, by the larger opportunities of Christopher Wordsworth. It is a great thing that the school to which they both belonged remains in undiminished vigour at the present day, while Evangelicals admit their manifest inferiority to the great Puritans, and Rome has no one to compare with Bellarmine. The "antiquated" Anglican dogma still holds its own against all gainsayers in every quarter of the world. It is the bulwark of the Old Catholic reform of the present century as it was of the Protestant reform in the sixteenth. And as the world is now larger and crowded with new enemies, while the battle is fought without aid from the secular arm, the champion of our time fights more distinctly and individually for the faith, and therefore wins the brighter crown. Compared with the first men of our day, Wordsworth was certainly no such preacher as the golden-mouthed Wilberforce, nor perhaps in the first class after that unequalled pulpit orator. Still, his sermons always commanded attention, and will live as few sermons do among literary works. He rivalled Pusey in theology and Keble in sacred poetry; his New Testament is undoubtedly superior to Alford's, and his Commentary on the whole Bible has no rival but Scott's, itself a prodigy of individual insight and industry, but not to be named for learning, depth, or accuracy, beside the wonderful erudition of our great divine. Indeed, there is nothing to compare with it but the *Speaker's Commentary*, which presents the accumulated labours of more than thirty of our best scholars, not one of whom would for a moment compete with the single and all-sufficient Commentator. The wealth of learning, patristic, classical, and miscellaneous, exhibited in this work—the grasp and stedfastness of Catholic belief—the insight into Revelation—the elevation of thought and practical application to human needs—make it a work of unspeakable value. Granting that here and there the exegesis must yield to newer lights, we are not sorry to see the old defended. In most things, in the interpretation of Holy Writ especially, the old is better. It is very cheering in these times of sceptism, novelty, and general flabbiness to hear the old trumpet-note ringing over the *mêlée* with no uncertain note. Wordsworth's Bible is not only a prodigy of learning and industry, it is a bulwark of dogmatic orthodoxy, clean-cut and sound to the core, standing like an old Egyptian obelisk, careless of storm and tempest, *monumentum ære perennius*.

To these unparalleled claims to literary fame the Bishop added the more excellent way of charity—not the spurious offspring of ignorance and love of praise, but the tenderness of assured knowledge to those who are seeking and feeling after it. Conscience, which alike for himself and the other forbade dissimulation, might call upon him to withstand his brother to the face. His truthfulness refused all complicity with falsehood and wrong, while his singleness recoiled from the mazes of policy. But he spoke the truth in love. He was the Bayard of our Church, *sans peur et sans reproche*. All that had the slightest personal knowledge of him knew his goodness, humility, piety, grace. His generosity was unbounded. To one so unique in his generation we cannot but think the See allotted to him *miseratione divinâ* was eminently appropriate. We rank Lincoln Minster distinctly second to York; but the combination of its triple towers on the "Sovran "hill," rising like an altar on the boundless plain, is acknowledged to be unrivalled. Just so we cherish the memory of this most complete of English Churchmen, not in every point sole and supreme, but a man of whom in this age of conciliation by compromise, we sadly fear that, "take him for all in all, we shall not look "upon his like again." *Requiescat in pace.*

SUNDAY OBSERVANCE.

The recent discussion in the House of Lords on the question of opening the national museums on Sunday has brought out the fact that even in the case of highly educated persons like Lord Bramwell considerable confusion of thought exists on the subject of Sunday observance. It is quite true that the Lord's Day of the Christian Church is not identical with the Jewish Sabbath, and that the Jewish usages with respect to the modes of its observance are not binding on Christians

now; though, as the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Duke of Argyll pointed out on Monday, the Lord's Day has for many centuries been observed by the Church in this island with a strictness not always found elsewhere. It may be granted that there is nothing of itself sinful in innocent Sunday recreation, provided that it does not act as an allurement to neglect the one great object for which the Lord's Day was instituted—the public worship of God. It is always related that it was the practice of Mr. Keble's parishioners at Hursley, after attending Divine Service at their parish church, to repair to the Vicar's field to play cricket. That seems to us a very profitable way of spending the Sunday under the circumstances of a country parish. The positive side of Sunday obligation having been duly observed, the spending of a part of the day in active recreation is innocent in itself, and far preferable to idleness as well as to something worse than idleness. But it is obvious that in the case of our larger town populations the matter stands on a wholly different footing. We do most thoroughly admit that the evils resulting from Sunday idleness are enormous, and we are not quite sure whether that is a fact as generally recognised as it deserves to be. Too many of the young men and youths who are to be seen loafing about the streets or parks on a Sunday in London had perhaps better be playing a wholesome game of cricket. Sunday idleness is a terribly fruitful source of Sunday wickedness. But what we may call "the cricket "remedy" would not go very far towards curing the evil—not so far as some amiable people seem to imagine. It would still leave a great many hours of idle leisure. We should welcome any well-conceived effort to counteract the mischiefs of Sunday idleness. That, no doubt, is an important object; but it is at least equally important to abstain from doing anything which would tend to loosen the hold of the English people on the belief that the Lord's Day is different from the other days of the week.

As to all this clamour about the Sunday opening of museums, we have no hesitation whatever in condemning it from every point of view. If the people are to have "recreation," let it be out in the open air, not in stuffy museums. Besides, what is there, after all, so vastly exhilarating or "improving" about museums? The talk about the refining and educating influences of art is part of the regular cant of the day. How many times in their lives do ordinary Londoners of the well-to-do class ever journey down to Bloomsbury or Brompton to visit the national collections? This vivid picture of the toiling millions eagerly awaiting the moment when by the grace of the Legislature they shall be permitted to while away many happy hours in the public museums is the merest delusion. The working-classes are not particularly keen about seeing the museums on any day. The fact is that although the museums contain treasures of priceless value to a mind specially educated to appreciate them, it is far otherwise with the unlearned. The sculptures of Nineveh and Egypt, the intricacies of mediæval embroidery, the landscapes of Turner—even some of the masterpieces of Hellenic art—are beyond their ken. They may wander through rooms full of Greek and Etruscan pottery and ancient bronzes, stuffed birds and dried beetles, rare shells and equally rare coins, yet without deriving the least intellectual benefit from the inspection. The idea that the opening of museums is a kind of panacea for Sunday "boredom" is perfectly ridiculous, even if the allegation were true—which we decline to believe—that the vast mass of the people suffer from "boredom" on Sundays. Those who are hard at work all the week enjoy their Sunday rest *as rest* simply. So far from "not "knowing what to do with themselves" on a Sunday, many probably have no wish to "do" anything with themselves, least of all to be dragged sight-seeing through museums. To them the enjoyment of Sunday is the cessation from toil. As to the publichouse argument, we hold that to be sheer nonsense. The regular *habitué* of the gin-palace is not a person who would find in the glories of art any compensation for the loss of his favourite pleasure. The probability is that the publichouses would, in fact, greatly benefit by the Sunday opening of museums—especially those in the neighbourhood of the museums themselves.

The whole of this agitation has originated with a clique who want to destroy the Christian Sunday because they want to destroy Christianity itself. That is the true significance of the movement, though many well-meaning persons have been induced to support it from, of course, totally different motives. The working-classes themselves happen to feel very strongly on the subject, and their feeling is all against the proposal. They have no wish to be the occasion of forcing others to labour on the Day of Rest. The Archbishop dwelt with great force on the lamentable extent to which already large classes of the community are, from one week's end to another, condemned to labour without any holiday or change, and deprived of all religious opportunities as well as of all chances of domestic or social enjoyment. That is a state of things which the proposed Sunday opening of museums would tend to aggravate. And no one supposes for a moment that the agitation would end here if the present proposal were conceded. The aim is to introduce into England the Continental Sunday—an institution which is nowhere more deeply deplored than it is by thoughtful men on the Continent itself. In France at this moment every effort is, in fact, being made to restore the very Sunday observance which some amongst ourselves are seeking to undermine. It is to be hoped that Englishmen appreciate the privilege they possess too well to permit them to part with it easily.

CHURCH PROGRESS.—III.

Voluntary Benefactions.

It is evident that we are on the eve of an outburst of Liberationist misrepresentation of even more than ordinary virulence. Such an impudent and malignant diatribe as that of Mr. Bernard Coleridge at Sheffield the other day is instructive as exhibiting the depths to which the Radical anti-Church movement has sunk. An ordinary Dissenting ignoramus of the type of Mr. Illingworth may be excused for utterances which are the result of defective education, and of consequent sheer inability to perceive the truth about the Church. A man who has been brought up all his life amid the surroundings of sectarian bigotry cannot be expected to emancipate himself easily from their blighting influence. The case is far otherwise with one like Mr. Bernard Coleridge, who, bearing a name once honoured in the Church, has enjoyed the inestimable advantage of being nurtured in Church principles and of knowing the real facts of the Church's position and work amongst the people of this country. Mr. Bernard Coleridge has already acquired a rather unpleasant notoriety in another connection, and he is not exactly the sort of person from whom we should look for a display of good taste and feeling. But that he should have lowered himself to deliver a vulgar attack upon the Church of England, to deliberately misrepresent her in the eyes of an audience which he knew to be too uneducated to detect his fallacies, and to pander to their greed and cupidity by holding out a prospect of her property being seized and applied to so-called "national" uses, is a painful illustration of the well-known fact that Radicalism sooner or later chokes and destroys a man's Churchmanship.

We have before observed that the Liberationist allegations as to the numbing effect upon the Church's spiritual work of her enjoyment of Endowments are utterly disproved by the vast sacrifices which Churchmen make quite voluntarily for the sake of that work. Her endowments, after all, amount to not very much in relation to the work done. It has been calculated that if the income of all Church benefices were divided equally among the parochial clergy, their average stipend would amount to no more than £250 per annum—not a very extravagant rate of payment, surely. Whatever some of the Dissenting newspapers may profess to desire as to permitting her to retain the benefactions she has acquired during the last forty or fifty years, that is by no means the real aim of the Liberationists. The spirit in which they would treat the Church is much the same as that which inspired the original draft of the University Tests Bill—the handiwork, by the bye, of Mr. Coleridge's father—which actually proposed to rob her in 1871 of the endowments of Keble College, opened only the year before. Churchmen may be quite sure that when their enemies had once "tasted blood," they would never abide by any compromise as to Church property. We see just now in France what has become of the Concordat which was to secure to the clergy the payment of their stipends out of the Church revenues seized by the State. It may therefore be assumed that the Liberationists are certainly aiming at the confiscation even of modern Church endowments and benefactions, including the thirty-five millions subscribed since 1840 for the building and maintenance of her fabrics.

We may supplement the statistics already cited in proof of the extent to which the Church's work is supported by voluntary benefactions, by quoting some further evidence from the *Official Year-Book*. Let us look, for instance, at Foreign Missions. The Church contributed for Foreign Mission work in 1883 nearly £492,000; while the Dissenting bodies collected only £351,000. That the Mission work of the Church abroad deserves to be, and might be, better supported is, unhappily, but too true. The income of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel shows a falling-off not altogether made up for by the growth of special funds; and though the Church Missionary Society is doing better, it must be confessed that Church progress in this respect is unsatisfactory enough. The accounts furnished in the *Year-Book* from our dioceses abroad exhibit a heart-rending lack of the pecuniary means necessary for maintaining and extending Mission work. Still, the fact remains that a large sum is voluntarily contributed annually towards it by Churchmen. Of Home Mission work we have already said something. It may, however, be mentioned here that the income of most of the principal Church societies promoting it is steadily on the increase. For example, the general income (apart from donations and legacies) of the Additional Curates Society and the Church Pastoral Aid Society exhibits a fair rate of progress in the last five years. So, too, does the income of many of the diocesan societies.

One of the most striking indications of the extent to which Churchmen voluntarily tax themselves for the promotion of good works is afforded by the figures of the Hospital Sunday Fund. In London the total amount collected in the last twelve years was £333,555, of which the Church contributed £248,467 and other bodies only £84,388. In the provinces we have the particulars for six years only. Here the total collected was £240,958, of which £154,526 was given by the Church, and £86,432 by other bodies.

We have reserved for the last some striking particulars of the Church's work in respect of Education. In 1883 alone Churchmen spent more than £897,000 on the building, maintenance, and inspection of their schools. Besides what has been done by other societies and by individuals, the National Society has since its foundation in 1811 disbursed more than £1,143,000 on Education. But the work of the Church as a whole may be appreciated from the fact that in the sixty years between 1811 and 1870 she spent £15,150,000 on Education; while, in the thirteen years since the passing of the Education Act in 1870, so zealous have been her efforts that she has spent another £13,000,000 on her schools; making a total of more than £28,000,000—or, including the value of building sites, at least £30,000,000—spent by the Church in educating the children of the poor. Out of the total number of 3,127,214 scholars in average attendance at school throughout the country in 1883, no less than 1,562,507 were being educated by the Church. The Church is, in fact, actually making the ratepayers a present every year of the vast sums which she devotes to Education—a munificent gift to the nation which a fair-minded Dissenter would willingly set against the fact of her endowment.

Reviews.

NEW NOVELS.

*A Modern Dædalus** is an ingenious mixture of Jules Verne and of the political novel. It describes with wonderful force and reality, which almost make us forget the impossible foundation on which the story rests, the marvellous results of the discovery of a flying machine by the son of an Irish peasant, whose father and brothers are advanced members of the Dynamite party. For the objects, and still more for the methods, of that party, the novelist expresses in his preface an abhorrence which it would have been difficult to discover in the story itself. He says that though a native of Ireland he is a lover of England, but certainly as far as the story goes he manages to dissemble his love in a remarkable manner. Without the light thrown upon it by the preface we should have thought the novelette to be the production of one who was not only not a friend, but a decided enemy, to England, and the tone in which the author dwells on the destruction of the English forces by means of the flying brigade organised by the Irish patriot whose autobiography he records, is little in character with his professed friendship. But apart from the political questions involved, which, however, are not so easy to separate from the story as the writer imagines, we must own that the story is well and graphically told. It is a great test of the skill of the novelist to be able to give an air of reality to his flights of imagination, even when those flights—to speak literally as well as metaphorically—transcend the ordinary limits of possibility. This test Mr. Greer has undergone with no little success, and we almost feel as if we had ourselves been witnesses of that marvellous development of aërial locomotion, and of its fatal results on English rule in Ireland which he so graphically records. It is to be hoped that if such a development even enters within the range of practical politics, the developer will not be so resolved as the autobiographer appears to have been to reserve the use of his secret for the extreme party in Ireland. We may also hope that English soldiers will find some means of bringing down the members of the flying brigade by a long shot, and that the wonderful skill in musketry which Mr. Greer attributes to his hero's brother will not be confined to the rebels. The "resources of civilisation" have undoubtedly of late been applied to a bad purpose; still, we cannot but hope that if those resources are in the future to include the means of flying through the air and dropping shells of dynamite into fortified towns and down the funnels of ironclads, the use of those resources will not be confined to the Irish Nationalists. In the story before us the latter have it all their own way, and an amusing sketch is given of the ineffectual attempts of the Home Secretary to bribe the Irish patriot into revealing his secret. At the same time it does not tell much for the "Saxon" detective force that they should not have discovered the wings in the patriot's lodgings, and thus got possession of the secret without the expenditure of the proposed million so disdainfully rejected.

The last fruit off an old tree has always a charm of its own, and the late Mr. Charles Reade has done such good work as a novelist that no little interest attaches to his latest novel. That interest, however, has been to some extent discounted by the fact of that latest novel, *A Perilous Secret*,* having been already dramatised by him, and it has also, as we are informed in the present issue, appeared before in a serial form under another title. We are not acquainted with it in that form, but we have a very vivid recollection of the sensational drama entitled *Love and Money* which was produced some years since at the Adelphi, under Mr. Reade's management. The novel and the drama are constructed entirely on the same lines, and it is not often that a work of fiction and its theatrical adaptation are so close a reflex of each other. Those, therefore, who recollect the Adelphi melodrama—and few of those who saw it are likely to have forgotten it—will not find much that is new in *A Perilous Secret*, and their knowledge of what is about to happen will somewhat spoil their interest in the working out of the plot. But those to whom it comes as a novelty will find much in it to attract them. Mr. Reade was very skilful in the construction of his plots, and the novel before us is an admirable specimen of that skill. The way in which he has arranged and brought into a focus his incidents is worthy of all praise, and the reader must not overlook or ignore any of the details of the story, for all these details have their part to play in the working out of it. We are not by any means sure that it does not do better even for a play than it does for a novel. But it is not necessary to draw comparisons, which are proverbially odious, between Mr. Reade the novelist and Mr. Reade the dramatist. We believe, from sundry biographical sketches of him which have appeared, that it was rather in the latter than in the former capacity that he desired to be remembered. However this may be, *A Perilous Secret* is an admirable specimen of his powers in both the one and the other capacity. We do not say that the novel is perfect. There is a self-consciousness about all Mr. Reade's works which decidedly interferes with perfection. He is always labouring hard at some matter of detail with a kind of tone which seems to challenge his readers' admiration for his mastery of detail. It is difficult for him to keep himself out of his books except when he is really carried away by some stirring episode, which he realises so vividly that he forgets his own personality in describing it. Such an episode is that in the mine when Hope, his daughter, and their would-be murderer are shut up to die together. This is one of the most striking scenes in modern fiction, and the reader who is introduced to it for the first time is likely to hold his breath in anxious expectation while the days of their captivity drag on. It is with a genuine sense of relief that he will welcome the arrival of the rescuing party just in time, and the impotent fury of the would-be murderer, who, in his dread of being torn to pieces by his brother miners, is anxious to flood the mine, and thus, by bringing a speedy death on himself and his fellow prisoners, to escape from their hands, is most powerfully described. But the scene in the mine is only an episode, though a most striking episode, in the novel, and the real artistic interest of it as a work of fiction is to be found in the skilful working out of the peculiar relations between the heroine, her real father, and her adopted father. The villain of the piece is Leonard Monckton, who is somewhat too melodramatic in his villainy, and the comic element is supplied by the fair Julia and her stammering lover, Percy.

The *Season* for April is to hand. It gives a capital review of many novelties in dress and fancy work, fully illustrated. There are three coloured plates of the latest Paris fashions, above one hundred illustrations of dress and needlework, embroidery designs, initial letters, &c., and several useful paper patterns; in addition to which there are some cleverly written articles bearing on subjects of special interest to the fair sex.

* *A Modern Dædalus.* By Tom Greer.—London: Griffith, Farran, and Co., 1885.

* *A Perilous Secret.* By Charles Reade. In Two Vols.—London: Richard Bentley and Son, 1885.

MR. GLADSTONE'S NEW BOOK.*

We are not in the habit of quoting reviews from other journals, but we feel sure that our readers will feel that we are justified in making an exception in favour of the following critique, which appeared in the *St. James's Gazette* of last Saturday :—

In the first six volumes of this eagerly awaited work Mr. Gladstone leads up to his subject. Vols. i. to iii. consist of prefatory matter, in which the indefatigable author explains the lines on which he proposes to work, and in vols. iv. to vi. he revises. The treatise, which, when it is completed, will form a handsome library in itself, is dedicated to the late Gabriel Harvey, "as a slight token of admiration for a writer whose MSS. broke the wheels of a carrier's cart." To judge the book at present would be manifestly unfair; but we cannot think these six introductory volumes unworthy of their author's reputation.

Mr. Gladstone defines logic as "the art of explaining that it is all right," and then hastens to point out (pp. 42—118, vol. i.) the inadvisability of using definitions at all. "For the meaning of a word or term," continues our author, "is that which we think about when we use another word or term; and no word or term has the same signification (or connotation) in one proposition that it has in another." Mr. Gladstone cites numerous examples. "When I use the word 'retire,'" he says, "in reference to a Government's policy, I may mean 'annex.'" Again, "The term 'atrocities,' when applied to certain persons and certain regions, connotes blood-guiltiness; applied to others it may imply, if it has any connotation at all, butchery for the ultimate advantage of the butchered."

Want of space prevents us dwelling at length on Mr. Gladstone's second volume, which is perhaps, the most suggestive of the series, so far as it has gone. It may be briefly described as a caution against taking vol. i. too literally; "for all written or spoken statements must be considered in their relation to current events. Of the conversion of propositions Mr. Gladstone says little (pp. 15-182, vol. iii.) at present, holding this part of his subject too important for treatment in introductory volumes. He, however, makes merry over so-called "limited conversion." "Conversion," says Mr. Gladstone emphatically, "is unlimited;" and he adds, by way of caution to beginners, "it is well when you employ an affirmative proposition to explain that you use it in its negative sense."

After a noble but somewhat discursive peroration, Mr. Gladstone briefly states his rules of the syllogism (pp. 312-407). It will surprise no one that these differ from the views on the subject held by Whately; for Mr. Gladstone's work is sufficiently original to upset the old-fashioned Aristotelian theories of reasoning altogether. The new rules of the syllogism are five in number, and are stated in five sentences occupying two pages apiece. Each word is explained at length in brackets; but, with these reluctantly omitted (for the sake of brevity), the rules stand thus :—

(1.) *A syllogism must contain not less than four terms.* "Three terms," says our author, "sufficed for Aristotle and his contemporaries; but in these days of complexity we cannot do with less than four." It is to be noted that Mr. Gladstone does not confine the syllogism to four terms. "Five," he adds in an appendix, "are sometimes employed with effect; and it is worth remembering that by varying your connotations you really increase the number of your terms." This is the example given :—

The English Government is responsible for Egyptian affairs.
But the late Conservative Government was an English Government.
∴ The late Conservative Government is responsible for Egyptian affairs.

As Mr. Gladstone truly observes, "there seems something wrong about this syllogism when thus baldly expressed; but there can be no doubt of its validity when stated at proper length." The author then proceeds to prove in a masterly dissertation (pp. 480-601) that the Conservatives are to blame for the imbroglio in Egypt.

A syllogism (says Rule 2) *must similarly consist of not less than four propositions*; "for plainly we can draw more deductions from four propositions than from three;" *e.g.* :—

To pour out our best blood for our country is noble.
Gordon's was our best blood.
I poured it out.
∴ I am noble.

"But there are some terms," we learn from a footnote, "apt to lead to confusion and ambiguity. This word 'Gordon' is one of them, and I would be glad to see it expunged from the language."

Passing over Rule 3—which, "though you would hardly think it," is only Rule 2 in disguise—we reach the fourth rule: *If we are told a little about the terms in the premisses, we are entitled to infer a great deal more in the conclusion.* The last rule is a beautiful exposition of the doctrine that "from two negative premisses anything can be inferred." For example :—

A Government with a policy cannot do as it is told.
Not to obey other Governments is to be independent.
But we have no policy.
∴ We can do as we are told.

Mr. Gladstone prefaces his remarks on the hypothetical syllogism with the truism that "we must first take for granted whatever we want to prove, and should always prove one thing by arguing about another." And in another place he says, "Often an important premiss is not stated but merely conceived in the mind." As thus :—

The noble Arabs fight for liberty.
How noble a thing is liberty!
∴ We slay the Arabs.

"The hidden premiss," continues our author, "is extremely useful, and it is difficult to see how we could get on without it." It is not, however, a subject upon which Mr. Gladstone dwells very long.

Vols. iv. to vi. may be best regarded as a commentary on the preceding volumes. "I have laid down my plan of procedure," Mr. Gladstone explains, "at considerable length and with great caution; for I have not yet *absolutely* determined what my plan of procedure is to be. If I have anywhere left a statement unguarded by a qualifying phrase, such error is owing to want of careful revision. Wherever my assertions are contradictory, it must be understood that in the one I express my own opinion, subject to explanations, and in the others the opinions of other persons. At the present stage of the work I cannot undertake to decide which are my opinions; but wherever a syllogism is given in Barbara it will be advisable to convert it at once into Camestres. This will leave my original statement unchallenged, besides affording wholesome exercise for the student, and the result, of course, will in all cases be the same."

Mr. Gladstone's sixth volume concludes in the middle of a most interesting chapter on "the suicidal policy of using one word when two will do as well." "Every additional word," argues the author eloquently, "is an additional loophole of escape; and, indeed, by a judicious blending of terms the logician can always unsay in one sentence what he said in the preceding one."

We have frequently had occasion to question the utility of Mr. Gladstone's services as a statesman, but it would be ungenerous to deny that there is much thought-compelling matter in his latest work. There is no sham about it, the author laying bare the working of his mind for the benefit of a generation soon, too soon, to come after him; and so honest a book is far on its way to being a great book. There is much in it that may fairly be called biographical. The Premier has been fortunate in his publishers, though cloth binding is perhaps desirable. The volumes are issued in stiff blue paper covers that do not seem unfamiliar, and the general get-up of the work is excellent. We notice a few misprints, but these will doubtless be corrected in the second edition; to the reviser we may suggest that sentences of more than one page in length are apt to confuse.

* *The Elements of Logic.* By W. E. Gladstone, M.P., Author of *Homer and the Homeric Age*, &c. Vols. I. to VI.—London: Eyre and Spottiswoode.

The loan exhibition of deceased water-colour painters' works just opened in the gallery of the Royal Society of Painters in Water Colours is in several respects the finest that has ever been held in London. The artists represented range, in point of date, from the fifteenth to the present century, and, though chiefly English, also comprise many foreign masters. The exhibition, from which few artists of the highest rank are absent, is exceptionally rich in examples of David Cox, David Roberts, Samuel Prout, Copley Fielding, George Cattermole, Decamps, and especially of Turner. With respect to the latter's "Cape Colonna," painted in his early manner, and for which £1,000 would probably be considered a not unreasonable price, it may be mentioned that it was bought at a sale a few years ago for the sum of 40s. Decamps's "Sortie de l'Ecole" is another exquisite and valuable drawing—representing a crowd of laughing boys rushing from a Constantinople school-house—lent, among many others, by Sir Richard Wallace. Linnell, Bonington, Constable, Clarkson Stanfield, Cotman, F. W. Topham, and a score more masters are all well represented; and an interesting drawing by D. G. Rossetti, made in 1852, has a place of honour. The Queen sends four views of Windsor by Sanby, and a drawing by Cosway, while Sir Frederick Leighton contributes some fine sketches by Claude and Vandyck.

Correspondence.

THE CHRIST'S HOSPITAL SCHEME.

To the Editor of the JOHN BULL.

Sir,—I trust you will permit me to express my cordial concurrence in your criticisms on two of the principal points in the proposed scheme for Christ's Hospital. (1) The first relates to the secularising of the headmasterships of the various schools. So long as the headmaster was required to be in Holy Orders, parents had at least some sort of guarantee that their sons would not be exposed to the danger of being brought under the influence of unbelief or misbelief. We are told, indeed, that religious instruction is to be given at each school of the foundation in accordance with some vague standard called "the principles of the Christian faith." Who is to decide what they are? Will the instruction include, for example, the teaching of the Apostles' Creed? And, if so, what is the teacher to say on the subject of the Holy Catholic Church, which is mentioned in that formula? This is just one example of the practical difficulties involved in any attempt to set up that solemn sham and unreal figment known as "unsectarian Christianity." Christ's Hospital is a distinctively Church foundation, and to alienate its endowments in the interests of so-called Unsectarianism is to perpetrate an act of grave injustice.

(2) Another most objectionable point in the new scheme, to which I am glad to observe you have called attention, is that which relates to the admission of boys and girls from elementary schools to the schools of this foundation. No doubt it is theoretically an excellent thing that poor children who show an aptitude for learning should have a chance of getting a good education, first at a higher grade school, and then at the University. But the present proposal is open to two grave drawbacks. One is that the transfer of children from the elementary schools implies a previous training of a kind which it is preposterous to expect the ratepayers to provide. The other is the grievous peril, especially in the case of girls, of mixing together in one school children who have been carefully brought up in good homes with those whose home life has in many cases been of a totally different kind.

Your obedient servant.
March 24. THOROUGH.

ISCARIOTISM.

To the Editor of the JOHN BULL.

Sir,—*Iscariotism* has been defined by Thomas Walker in his "original" as "a pretended zeal for the welfare of others for the purpose of basely promoting one's own." The House of Lords was told lately "not to fear the people;" it might well have been added, provided always that their search after truth is not baffled by oratorical subterfuge and their honesty debauched by large and false promises after the example of that discreditable pilgrimage of passion in the year 1838.

Iscariots calling themselves Liberals are at the present time industriously occupied in farming the ignorance of the agricultural labourer by sowing broadcast the pernicious seeds of social disorder and class hatreds with a very copious top-dressing of evil-speaking, lying, and slandering.

That a politician and statesman of Mr. Goschen's eminence should have had occasion to write his great letter to the Ripon Liberal Association is a portent and warning.

The clergy, whatever the colour of their politics may be, will be doing good service to the State at the present emergency by holding meetings for the promotion of political knowledge, by which all honest reformers who prefer the welfare of their country to the advancement of faction may be able to formulate for themselves definite and correct opinions and principles. I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

FRANCIS HUGH DEANE, B.D.
Horsington Rectory, March 23.

INCORPORATED CHURCH BUILDING SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the JOHN BULL.

Sir,—Will you permit me to call attention to the advertisement in your present issue announcing the removal of the Incorporated Church Building Society after Easter from this address to No. 2, Dean's-yard, Westminster, S.W.?

This society has rented the whole of this house from the Commissioners of H.M. Woods and Forests since 1850, previously in the occupation of Newell Connop, Esq., treasurer of the society up to that date. The first meeting of the society held here was on the 18th of March, 1850, the last on the 19th of March, 1885. For thirty-five years this address has been familiar to the whole Church of England as the headquarters of various branches of Church work.

Last year we received notice from the Commissioners to give up possession on the 5th of April, 1885, and in consequence we have been obliged to give notice to quit to the Additional Curates Society and our other sub-tenants.

It will doubtless be a matter of regret to Church people at large, as it is to ourselves, that the connection of Church work with such a commanding and central situation in London should thus be severed, and that the association under one roof of the two important parts of the Home Mission work of the Church—viz., Church Building and the supply of Additional Clergy—should be discontinued.

I may add that our Committee have given permission to the Home Reunion Society and to the Association for the Furtherance of Christianity in Egypt to make such use of their new premises as has been accorded here.—Yours faithfully,

R. MILBURN BLAKISTON, Secretary.
Incorporated Church Building Society,
7, *Whitehall, March* 21.

TRADITIONS IN UNIVERSITY ROWING.

BY AN OLD OAR.

"Oxford men are very pleasant six or seven years after they have left Oxford," said a lady once to me. She was probably oppressed by the nice sense of distinction which her young Oxonian friends brought to the measurement of the respect due to others and themselves. That is, I suppose, the uneasy feeling which we mean by the convenient hazy term self-consciousness. An exchange of the self-imposed discipline of school playgrounds for the elaborate ceremonial system of University social life promises no emancipation from the false fever of reverence which we call prejudice and respect for tradition. There are always, it is true, some desperate Philistines at the Universities, whom one finds with amused surprise in after years to be the mildest of men. But it is precisely these milky natures which we should expect to find soured by the tyranny of the prigs. And the reproach of priggism is not to be confined to the donnishness of some dons, and the vapours of some idle coteries among the undergraduates. For it is to be found in its strongest forms among the sporting organisations, and strongest in the strongest organisation, the boat club. To hold office among undergraduates is to be unassailable by criticism. With what disproportioned reverence does many a promising young scholar of twenty regard a clever young man of thirty who happens to be his tutor? Did any captain of a boat club ever know a motion to be really debated when the opinions of the officers were known, or the action of the officers opposed, or a motion brought forward by an independent member? The traditions of a captains' meeting were that debate was unseemly, and that the captains assembled to vote as they were directed by their officers. To break a tradition at the university is, as every one knows, to become an outcast. A freshman must respect the barriers between first and third and fourth year men. A freshman must not think of distinguishing in the training for his torpid and for his first eight between the things which are required of him for his good and the things which are allowed him for his indulgence. Not to go for a run after chapel was a venial sin, but not to round off breakfast with marmalade and toast, or not to drink two glasses of Oxford port after dinner in the Lent term, was to bring oneself into suspicion with comrades and coaches. And what a marvellous system of training it was! At breakfast you did not choose between a raw egg beaten up with your tea, fish, steak, chop, poached eggs, and marmalade with toast, but on pain of being suspected of staying power you were obliged to eat through them all. Then, after dinner and the regular pint of beer, came the official dessert to which the torpid went in a body. Every man drank his two glasses of port, became duly excited, promoted cheerfulness and assisted digestion by horseplay, overturned tables, rushed against bedroom doors, bent iron bedsteads into semicircles, made a noise in the quad, and went to bed with something like a headache, and an inexplicable feeling as of a man who had drunk too much. But in training that was impossible.

For myself, I had the privilege of belonging to a college where liberal ideas obtained. And after sleeping one night in a semi-circular bedstead, where one could neither make oneself comfortable as the chord of the arc or the arc itself, amid the wreck of all the glasses of all the rooms on the staircase, I found myself entertaining liberal ideas unawares, and thinking of what I would do when I was captain. We were not a popular college, and our unpopularity really arose, I believe, in part from our doing eccentric things and profiting by them. We made five bumps with a stroke whom every one laughed at, supported by a vegetarian No. 7, who trained on potato steaks and apple pie. We first permitted the torpid to drink claret instead of port, and growing bolder, forbade port altogether. We first enunciated the principles that no man is obliged to eat too much, that one glass of claret is better than two, that a rice pudding in the summer time is not deadly, and that to eat of a boiled fowl once a week, though not to be recommended, is not injurious. Even greater enormities of innovation I could mention, if I dared: but there is fear that the rest of this little paper may be put out of court. We remember—all of us who are are rowing men—the reprimand which a university coxswain received in the boat, "None of your damned intellectuality here." Well, if we have learned anything from Hanlan, if we have broken the smallest peep-hole through the shell of prejudice, we shall admit that that was not only coarsely but stupidly said. A good waterman differs from a good oar in putting brains into his stroke. And he is certainly not a good coach who coaches by rote, and trains according to established custom. It would no doubt need extraordinary courage in a coach to give a crew that seemed to be getting overtrained three or four days holiday at the seaside. For such courage one need not hope when one sees customs—which a moment's careful thought must condemn—retained without examination one decade after after another. Now and then a voice is heard from the *Field*, but the voice is the voice of a London man, and the universities are above listening to that.

Those foolish wearisome reports of the training of the university crews that daily appear inform us with unbroken monotony that after the crew had been duly tubbed in combinations of two at a time, the eight was launched and proceeded at 29 to the minute to Iffley or Baitsbite. Then the eight goes through the locks or returns, and stroke sets 30 or 31 or 32 to the minute, but never more. Thirty-four is evidently considered a mad bucket, and inconsistent with the dignity of a university crew. This tubbing continues, and this slow stroke is set up to within a week or ten days of the race. With what possible object, and with what probable result? Well, with the result, at all events, that scratch London eights generally show themselves to be faster than the University eights. Now what would be the object of a coach when an eight is once in training? I believe it should be not to teach the men to row, but to teach them to row together, and to teach them to row a racing stroke. One can understand the utility of sending stroke and No. 7 out in a light pair together (it is never done). That would be an excellent test of No. 7. It would immediately be seen whether he really was rowing with stroke, and if he was not, the light pair would force him to against his will. And he would be rowing the same stroke that he rows in the eight. Whereas if No. 5 goes out with No. 6 he has to accommodate himself to a new stroke, and might just as well be sent out with a man who is not rowing in the eight at all, a thing which every man would condemn. If the men are learning to row then tubbing is delightful practice, but if they are learning to row together they must be set to row to no stroke but the stroke; and that stroke must be varied, for it must not be mechanical but intelligent. An eight which always rows the same slow stroke will not fall together so fast as an eight which varies, and considerably varies, its rate of stroke. A University eight need not row slower than thirty, and should not row faster than forty, to the minute. But if it means to get quickly and well together let it constantly practise all rates between thirty and forty—not six days, but six weeks before the race. Why, a College eight is actually racing after a preparation not so long as that which precedes the training period of a University eight. How do you know that a man can row a racing stroke? And do not you know that a trained eight, which has been used to row only a slow stroke, will be as distressed as if it were not in training at all when it comes to row fast? Naturally enough. For by working slowly the muscles have acquired a disinclination to work fast.

The whole question in fact is—Is a good eight wanted, or eight good men in an eight? The University system seems to aim at the latter. The coaches have naturally not escaped the competition fever, and work as if they were Board school masters and had to present the eight men individually for examination without considering what use they would be collectively in the work of the nation. Let us say it boldly out. A coach ought to teach his men to follow the faults as well as the virtues of the stroke. Let him find a faultless stroke if possible, but do not let him try to make the men row better than their stroke. Let them row like him. What rowing man but has seen an eight do well with not a single good oar in it, and another do ill where all the men rowed well, and yet somehow the whole eight was vile? Every rowing man knows the explanation. In the good eight the men had been taught not individual excellence, but the need of sacrificing, it might be, individual excellence for the good of the community. The men had been taught unselfishness, the lesson which rowing, beyond all other sports, professes to teach.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

WITH THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION.

A correspondent of the *Civil and Military Gazette* (Lahore), writing from Bala Murghab, says :—"One of our scientific members, thinking little of 'rocks ahead,' spends his leisure moments in taming and rendering docile as a domesticated lap-dog the fiery Turcoman steed. It is a real pleasure to see the noble quadruped lie down at the word of command, and it is still more astonishing to see his master fire off a rifle standing or kneeling on the prostrate beast. I will digress one moment, and tell you a little story I heard, illustrating the value which a Turcoman places on his horse. A raiding party of Turcomans went, some years ago, on an expedition

into Persia. The result of their enterprise was successful, and among other spoil they captured a headman of a village and his wife, a very beautiful woman. Fortune was against them in one respect, as they imagined, for they only captured one woman, who was appropriated by the chief of the raiders. All the party were well mounted, but the chief especially so on a horse which he valued greatly, not only in a pecuniary sense, but on account of its great speed and endurance. The Turcomans having accomplished their object, set out on their return journey from Persia; the only lady of the party being mounted behind the chief. When they had proceeded some distance on the way, the woman carefully drew out one of her golden earrings and threw it on the ground, at the same time calling the attention of the chief to the fact. An immediate halt was called, and as the Turcoman considered that it would be better to recover the earring than to leave it behind, he dismounted to pick up the fallen treasure. No sooner had he done this than our beauty gathered up the bridle and urged the noble steed towards Persia. Although a pursuit was attempted, still, as she was by far the best mounted, her pursuers hadn't a chance, and the captured lady returned to her home, having won the day by her presence of mind and woman's wit. The sirdar was so grieved by the loss of his horse that he immediately sent her husband back to negotiate for the purchase of the animal. His mind was not easy till he received him safely back, probably to carry his master proudly on many another raid. A good many Usbegs have been coming into camp during the last few days, some of whom have brought merchandise with them from Bokhara, Kashgar, and Khokand. The majority of those coming in, however, come from Maimena, and among them was the head Pir of that place. The Pirs, or State-licensed fakirs or saints of Afghanistan, belong to the Usbeg caste, and possess what may be called a wealthy connection. In these days, when miracles are at a discount, it may be interesting if I tell you a story I heard about these Pirs, which rivals the celebrated Loretto miracle. When Nusseeroodin Shah laid siege to Herat, in the time of Kamaran Khan, he was accompanied by a large body of troops, whom report states to have reached the number of 50,000 men. Kamaran Khan relied on the strength of his fortifications to resist the onslaught of the enemy. This succeeded for a time; and the Persian King was no nearer taking Herat than when he first came. It happened, however, that by means of bribes a certain portion of the Herat forces were drawn from their allegiance, and the situation became critical. Kamaran Khan was at length obliged to give battle to the Persians near the city; and he was assisted by the force under the command of the head Pir. During the course of the battle which ensued the Persian monarch recognised that his troops were suffering severely from the determined attack of this holy band, and he bribed his officers round him to obtain the head of the Pir and bring it to him. This was at length successfully accomplished, and Nusseeroodin Shah returned to Teheran with the decapitated head of the chief Pir. This was exposed to the view of all, but one day the head had disappeared. Although search was made for it everywhere, high and low, nobody had seen it, and what is more, nobody could find it. The astonishing news was, however, not long in finding its way to the King that the head had travelled of its own accord to Herat, and had become incorporated once more with the trunk. Such is the story as told to me, and it is generally believed by these people. Anyhow, this is said to be the origin of this influential sect, who possess extensive and wealthy ziarats throughout the country. The Pirs are treated with the greatest respect, and their wishes are considered as commands. If any traveller passes one of their ziarats, or if a hundred travellers or more present themselves, they are regaled with a feast which is served out to them every morning and evening. The Pir that I met was a handsome, intelligent man, who expressed a wish to see me; and I spent some time in pleasant conversation with him, and eventually parted with every sign of frendliness and goodwill on his part."

THE EGYPTIAN CONVENTION.

The declaration of the European Powers with respect to the finances of Egypt, together with further documents upon the subject, were issued at the end of last week as a Parliamentary paper. The declaration, which has been signed by the Powers, gives the Sultan's authorisation to the Khedive to raise a loan of £9,000,000, recognises the justice of making their nationals in Egypt liable to the same taxes as the natives, and fixing the 30th of March for the delegates of the Powers to meet in Paris to draw up a conventional Act with the object of sanctioning a definitive regulation, guaranteeing at all times and for all Powers the freedom of the Suez Canal. Appended to this declaration is the draft Convention, setting forth the provisions under which the loan of £9,000,000 shall be issued. The coupons are to be payable in gold, in Egypt, London, and Paris on March 1st and September 1st each year. The bonds are not to be subject to any tax for the benefit of Egypt. The redemption to be effected by purchase at the market price. If the price is above par, the Egyptian Government reserves to itself the right to pay off the loan at par. The other important provisions have already been made known by Mr. Childers. The draft decree of the Khedive is also annexed, authorising the raising of the loan in question, and setting forth in ample form all the provisions in connection therewith.

Article 26 of this decree is as follows:—

"The Reform Tribunals shall not have cognisance of the suit instituted by the Commissioners of the Treasury of the Public Debt against the Government of Egypt, the President of the Council, the Minister of Finance, the Mudirs, the directors of the assigned administrations, either in their public or private capacity, for payment of sums assigned to the Sinking Fund, and which have been paid directly to the Treasury of the Ministry of Finance during the months of September and October, 1884."

Count Münster proposed the addition of the following declaration, which was adopted and signed by the Plenipotentiaries:—

"The undersigned Plenipotentiaries declare that the adhesion of the Powers to Article 26 of the Decree does not imply recognition of the legality of the use to which the Sinking Fund of the Egyptian Debt has been applied."

Thereupon the following circular was sent by Lord Granville to Her Majesty's representatives at the various Courts:—

"The Ambassadors of the Great Powers and of Turkey met at the Foreign Office this afternoon, by my invitation, for the purpose of signing the declaration for the settlement of the Egyptian financial question. Before proceeding to sign, I stated to their Excellencies that they were no doubt acquainted with the wording of the declaration, and of the documents attached to it. The German Ambassador had been instructed by his Government to propose the insertion of certain words in the 16th Article of the draft decree, and also the signature of a separate declaration to the effect that the adhesion of the Powers to the 26th Article of the decree did not imply the recognition of the legality of the use made of the Sinking Fund of the Egyptian Debt. I said that I had rather hesitated to put the question, to which I was sure there could but be one answer, yet that I had thought it right to ask Count Münster whether I correctly understood that these changes were not meant in any way to afford openings for a renewal of claims on account of the sums so employed. Count Münster had telegraphed to Prince Bismarck, and had in reply assured me that the reservation was made as a matter of legal form to avoid any recognition of the legality of the action of the Egyptian Government in the matter, and that it was not intended to affect the full validity of the 26th Article. I assumed, I added, that this answer meant that which I anticipated, viz., that while the legality of the Khedivial decree is not implied by the 26th Article, any further action in respect to the same cause is excluded. Count Münster stated that this was the meaning of the answer; the other Ambassadors assented, and took a copy of the last sentence on my statement. We then proceeded to sign the declarations."

A Blue-Book (Egypt No 4, 1885) containing further correspondence respecting the finances of Egypt was also issued yesterday week, containing 134 pages, in which are 136 despatches, with certain reports and tabulated information. On the 24th of November last Earl Granville transmitted to Her Majesty's representatives with the Great Powers proposals for the settlement of the finances of Egypt, and on the 6th of December transmitted to them lengthy extracts from the Earl of Northbrook's report extending to nine pages. The French counter proposals were presented by M. Waddington on the 17th of January, and on the 22nd Earl Granville telegraphed the following circular to Her Majesty's representatives at Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Rome, St. Petersburg, Constantinople, and Cairo:—

"I have communicated to French Ambassador following decision of Her Majesty's Government in reply to French proposals respecting Egypt finance:—We have no desire to ask the Powers to share guarantee of £9,000,000 loan; but if they wish to join on principle of the Anglo-French guarantee of Turkish Loan of 1855 we will consent. We object to the Commission of Inquiry, for which we have given reasons. It is possible that no permanent sacrifice on the part of the bondholders may be necessary, but if found to be so in two years we would consider question of an inquiry by a Commission like that which resulted in Law of Liquidation. We waive our proposals as to the Daira and the Domains. We feel strongly necessity of a change in the administration, and are ready to discuss the matter with France. We concur as regards the Suez Canal, and we think the arrangements should be embodied in a treaty."

These bases of negotiations were accepted by the French Government on the 4th of February, and the following is the summary of their suggestions with regard to the Convention:—

"The conclusion in London among the representatives of the guaranteeing Powers and those of Turkey and Egypt of a Convention serving to determine the terms and employment of a loan of £9,000,000; the formulation by the Egyptian Government, in conjunction with the representatives of the Great Powers, of a decree establishing the provisional tax of 5 per cent. on the coupons of the debt and the new taxes on foreign residents; the meeting at Cairo of a Commission entrusted with the preparation of an arrangement relative to the Suez Canal; these are, in short, the proposals which the Government of the Republic submit to the Powers as a practical means of carrying out the agreement, the bases of which they have already laid down. Their adhesion to this programme would be signified by an exchange of declarations, followed by the despatch of the instructions necessary to insure their immediate execution."

The second series of Egyptian papers was issued on Monday. The correspondence, which contains despatches up to March 11, opens with an intimation from Sir Evelyn Baring (dated January 25) that the Commissioners of the Public Debt are pressing for payment of some £80,000, due on December 31 from the Egyptian Treasury on account of the Moukabalah compensations. The thread of the international negotiations is then taken up. Lord Granville having acceded to the proposals of France with reference to the guarantee, the tax on the coupon, the Domains, and the Suez Canal (which last was, in effect, a proposal of his own), rejected the French proposition of an independent International Commission to inquire into the finances of Egypt, and suggested instead that if in two years a permanent sacrifice was required of the bondholders, an International Commission, such as had been held before the Law of Liquidation was passed, "might be a fair matter for consideration." He now in a despatch (dated February 9) complains to Lord Lyons that in the Memorandum in reply to this proposal the French Government had altered the wording so as to make this inquiry "an absolute condition." On the 13th Lord Granville communicates to Lord Lyons the amendments proposed by Her Majesty's Government to the French Memorandum. These include the wording above mentioned, an objection to fixing beforehand the composition of the projected Commission, an opinion as to the needlessness of assembling a Commission to consider the neutrality of the Suez Canal, since all the information necessary for drafting the Convention was perfectly well known. As regards the Commission of Inquiry, M. Waddington informed Lord Granville that the French Government were agreed that unless the stipulation for its appointment, in the event of a continued tax on the coupon, were made definite and obligatory, there would be no sufficient security to the bondholders that their interests would be sufficiently regarded.

Several explanatory despatches are interchanged between the different Governments respecting details of the loans and joint guarantee. Under date of the 25th of February Lord Granville reports another conversation with M. Waddington, and also one that took place on the following day.

On the 3rd of March M. Waddington called on Lord Granville and informed him that, although he had not received the formal acquiescence of Germany, he thought there was a general agreement as to the arrangements for settling the financial difficulty. There remained nothing, therefore, but the form of declaration for the freedom of the Canal. He communicated the proposed form summoning and constituting a Commission at Paris, and stated that, in deference to the objections of England, his Government had omitted all reference to a Conference. Meanwhile, the subjoined startling announcement was received by telegraph from Sir Evelyn Baring respecting the monetary condition of the Egyptian Government. It is dated Cairo, March 2:—

"On the 28th of February the Egyptian Government had a balance of £31,000. Their estimated deficit on the 31st of March is £93,000. They hold £200,000 nominal preference stock. On this they will be able to borrow expenditure services for March. But they will not be able to pay tribute due on the 6th of April, amounting to £112,000, or the £150,000 which the Domains Commissioners will require by the 15th of April. If, therefore, some of the loan money is not placed at the disposal of Egyptian Government by the 6th of April they will have to stop payment of the tribute."

There are numerous despatches relating to the admission of representatives of Germany and Russia to the Caisse, but they add nothing to the information already made public.

Ecclesiastical.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Rev. B. H. Abrahall, to be Chaplain of Paignton Cemetery.

Rev. C. C. Bartholomew, Prebendary, to Sub-Deanery of Exeter Cathedral. Patron, the Bishop.

Rev. H. T. Beebe, Vicar of Yeovil-cum-Preston, to be Surrogate for Diocese of Bath and Wells.

Rev. A. Carr, to be Chaplain to the High Sheriff of Berkshire.

Rev. H. Chapman, to Vicarage of Norton-in-Hales. Patrons, the Trustees.

Rev. W. H. Coventry, Rector of Severn Stoke, to be Honorary Canon in Worcester Cathedral.

Rev. S. R. Coxe, Rector of Baconsthorpe, Norfolk, to Vicarage of Stamfordham, near Newcastle-on-Tyne. Patron, the Lord Chancellor.

Rev. A. H. E. De Romestin, Vicar of Stony Stratford, Bucks. Patron, the Bishop of Oxford.

Rev. W. Downes, Curate of Kentisbeare, to Rectory of Combe Raleigh, Devon. Patron, Major-General Drewe.

Rev. E. S. Dumbleton, Rector of St. James's, Exeter, to be Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral. Patron, the Bishop.

Rev. J. F. Fixsen, Vicar of Ugborough and Rural Dean of Plympton, to Vicarage of Bucknell-with-Buckton, Salop. Patrons, the Grocers' Company.

Rev. H. A. Hall, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Bristol, to Vicarage of Swindon, Wilts. Patron, the Lord Chancellor.

Rev. F. C. Hingeston-Randolph, Rector of Ringmore, Devon, and Rural Dean of Woodleigh, to be Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral. Patron, the Bishop.

Rev. J. Jacob, to Rectory of Whitewell. Patron, Mr. Thomas Tyrwhitt Drake.

Rev. P. Lamb, Vicar of St. Andrew's, Northampton, to Vicarage of Ellington.

Rev. S. U. B. Lee, Canon of Exeter, to be Treasurer of Exeter Cathedral. Patron, the Bishop.

Rev. M. H. Linklater, Curate-in-Charge of Horspath, Oxford, to Rectory of Pitney, Langport.

Rev. J. Matthews, Vicar of Knowstone-with-Molland, Devon, and Rural Dean of South Molton, to be Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral. Patron, the Bishop.

Rev. I. W. Milner, to Rector of Etherley. Patron, the Bishop of Manchester.

Rev. L. B. Morris, to Rectory of Thornton-in-Craven.

Rev. A. Newman, late Vicar of Wembdon, Somerset, to Vicarage of Axminster-with-Kilmington and Membury. Patron, Mr. W. Brice.

Rev. T. Parnell, to be Curate-in-Charge of Knapton, North Walsham.

Rev. F. Phipps, to Rectory of Frome Vauchurch-cum-Batcombe, Dorset. Patron, the Earl of Sandwich.

Rev. R. C. L. Reade, to Rectory of Stowlangtoft and Vicar of Hunston.

Rev. H. Sanders, Archdeacon and Canon of Exeter, and Rector of Sowton, Devon; to be Chancellor of Exeter Cathedral. Patron, the Bishop.

Rev. E. G. Sandford, Vicar of Cornwood, Devon; to be Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral. Patron, the Bishop.

Rev. T. H. Spinney, to Vicarage of Newborough. Patron, the Vicar of Hanbury.

Rev. W. V. Vickers, to be Chaplain to the High Sheriff of Montgomeryshire.

Rev. O. Whaley, to Rectory of Folksworth.

Rev. T. H. Wyndham, late Curate of Dinton-with-Teffont Magna, Wilts; to Rectory of Kentisbeare. Patrons, the Trustees.

LICENCE TO CURACY BY THE BISHOP OF CARLISLE.—Rev. Alfred Edwin Eaton, M.A., to Addingham.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF ELY.—Revs. Francis Thomas Bramston, M.A., to Polstead; Henry Crozier Casson, B.A., to Woolpit.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF EXETER.—Revs. Percy George Bulstrode, B.A., to Dawlish; William John Clapp, M.A., to Sidbury; Charles Percy Graham Montgomery, M.A., to Plympton St. Mary; Albert Hughes, M.A., to Tawstock; Barton Reginald Vaughan Mills, M.A., to Broad Clyst; John Charles Burch Sanders, to Dartmouth, St. Saviour's.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF LICHFIELD.—Revs. James T. L. Cheshire, to Brewood; F. T. Minchall, B.A., to Ogley Hay; John Rees, B.A., to Dawley Magna; Inglis C. R. Scott, B.A., to Fenton; Albert Smith, M.A., General Licence; James E. Walker, to Stoke-on-Trent.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF MANCHESTER.—Revs. John Millett Coates, to St. Mary's, Hulme; Thomas Martin Harrison, M.A., to All Saints', Habergham; Arthur Edward Robinson, M.A., to Flixton.

LICENCE TO CURACY BY THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.—Rev. William Foxley Norris, M.A., to St. Mary's, Chatham.

LICENCE TO CURACY BY THE BISHOP OF SALISBURY.—Rev. Arthur Krauss, to Parkstone.

OBITUARY.

March 16, the Rev. William Hodgson, M.A., of Streatham-common, London, aged 67.

March 16, at Salisbury, the Rev. John Sebastian Wilkins, Vicar of Heywood.

March 17, at Edithweston Rectory, the Rev. Charles Halford Lucas, aged 50.

March 17, at Arlesley Vicarage, Baldock, the Rev. Thomas Rea Medwin, M.A., Vicar of Arlesey and Rector of Astwick, aged 74.

March 18, at Charsfield Vicarage, the Rev. David Medcalf, Vicar, aged 56.

March 19, at Donington Rectory, Henry George de Bunsen, Rector of Donington, a Prebendary of Lichfield Cathedral, aged 66.

March 24, at the Vicarage, Queen's-road, Peckham, S.E., the Rev. Michael Biggs, M.A., late Vicar of St. Mary's, Peckham, aged 70.

MISCELLANEOUS CHURCH INTELLIGENCE.

The Bishop of Peterborough is reported to be suffering from an attack of jaundice.

The Ven. Archdeacon Sanders, Archdeacon of Exeter, was on Monday installed as Chancellor of the Cathedral of that diocese.

The clergy of the deaneries of Moreton and Ipplepen have decided on presenting the Bishop of Exeter with a pastoral staff on his elevation to the See of London.

The Dean of Bristol has entered upon his eighty-eighth year. Dr. Gilbert Elliot graduated from St. John's College, Cambridge, in 1822; was ordained in the following year, and was appointed to his deanery in 1850.

Archbishop Benson has arranged for a brief visit to Canterbury in May. His Grace will arrive in the Cathedral city on May 8, and will be the guest of the Dean until the following Tuesday. During his stay the Archbishop will conduct special Confirmations in Canterbury and the neighbourhood.

By the death, in his 80th year, of the Rev. Thomas Drosier, the living of Colebrook, near Copplestone, Devon, of the value of £300 a year, falls to the gift of the Dean and Chapter of Exeter.

The death is announced of the Rev. James White, M.A., brother of the poet, Henry Kirke White, Deceased, who died at Scotton, in Norfolk, had attained the age of 97 years, having been born in 1788. He survived his brother for the long period of seventy-eight years.

The Cathedral Establishments Commission held its final meeting yesterday week. There were present the Bishop of Carlisle, chairman, Lord Northbourne, the Right Hon. A. J. Beresford Hope, M.P., Mr. C. Dalrymple, M.P., and Mr. Ellicott, secretary.

The Church of Good Easter, near Chelmsford, was on Sunday morning destroyed by fire.

The enthronement of the new Bishop of London in St. Paul's Cathedral will take place at the afternoon service on April 8 (Wednesday in Easter week).

Canon Mason, Rector of All Hallows Barking, will give the mid-day addresses in St. Paul's Cathedral next week, and also those of the Three Hours on Good Friday. The special service of the *Passion* (Bach's St. Matthew) takes place at seven o'clock on Tuesday next.

The Irish Church Bench of Bishops, Lord Plunket, Archbishop of Dublin, presiding, met on Saturday to decide on the election for the Bishopric of Meath. Neither Dr. Bell nor Dean Reichel having the requisite two-thirds majority of clergy and laity, an objection to the validity of the return was raised, and action was deferred in order that the Synod Court might deal with the controverted legal question.

In consequence of the division of the diocese of Athabasca by the creation of a new diocese containing the Athabasca Lake and country, while the Bishop retains the great north-western regions, he has officially resigned the title of Bishop of Athabasca, and will now be known as the Bishop of Mackenzie River. All letters, &c., intended for Bishop Bompas must now, therefore, be addressed to the Bishop of Mackenzie River, North-west Territory of Canada.

In a circular letter, dated March 20, to the congregation and parishioners of St. Alban's, Manchester, the Rev. Canon Knox-Little announces his intention to resign the living of St. Alban's within the next few weeks. He states that four years ago, upon his appointment to the Canonry of Worcester, he had almost made up his mind to take this step, but there seemed so many things to be done in the parish that he deferred his purpose. Now, however, parochial affairs are in a much more satisfactory condition; the different organisations are in full activity; and he considers that the time has come when an incumbent who can devote all his time to the parish should take charge. The patronage of the living is in the hands of the Dean of Manchester (Dr. Oakley). It is of small value, and there is a very large population.

Miss Chafyn Grove, of Zeals House, who is the patron of the living of Wincanton, has most generously given the whole of the tithes of the parish for the sole use of the benefice. The great tithes have been alienated from the church for five centuries, and for many years the benefit derived from them has been very small. Now, however, we believe the living will be worth from £600 to £700 per annum. But thanks to the liberality of Miss Grove, they have been restored to their original use. They are valued at from £8,000 to £10,000, and were purchased only a few years since by the present patron for the express purpose of restoring them to the living. The presentation was formally made by Miss Chafyn Grove, before the celebration of Holy Communion, on Sunday, March 15, when she presented at the altar the deed conveying this munificent gift.

At St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, Dr. Temple was confirmed on Tuesday for a second time to the office of a Bishop. Dr. James Parker Deane, Q.C., the Archbishop of Canterbury's Vicar-General, held a court at a table immediately outside the chancel in Bow Church, and, after a few formalities, decreed in writing full admission for Dr. Temple to the See of London. The Bishopric of London once more became filled, and the See of Exeter was left vacant.

The Ven. James Gaspard le Marchant Carey, Vicar of Boreham and Archdeacon of Essex, died last week at Folkestone, in his 54th year. Mr. Carey graduated at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his degree as Senior Optime and a first-class in the Classical Tripos, in 1853. He was ordained in the same year by the Bishop of Oxford (Dr. Wilberforce). From 1853 to 1856 he was curate of Charlecombe, Somerset, and afterwards, till 1866, curate of Henny, in Essex. He held the rectory of Snodland, Kent, from 1866 till 1874, when he was instituted to the vicarage of Boreham, in the diocese of St. Albans. Mr. Carey was an honorary Canon of Rochester from 1870 to 1877, when he became an Honorary Canon of St. Albans. He was appointed Archdeacon of Essex in 1882.

There died last week the Rev. Henry George de Bunsen, the son of a man who was equally famous as a writer on theology, history, and archæological research, and as the Prussian Minister at the Court of St. James's. He was born in the year 1818. After spending some years of boyhood at Rugby he entered Oriel College, Oxford, where he took his degree in 1840 as a second-class *in literis humanioribus*. In the year afterwards he was ordained by the Bishop of Chichester, and after two years' service as curate of Dunchurch, in Warwickshire, he became

vicar of Lilleshall, in Shropshire, where he remained for twenty-two years, until he was appointed rector of Donington, Wolverhampton, in 1869. He also held the prebendal stall of Dasset Parva, in Lichfield Cathedral. The deceased gentleman was the author of *Boscobel*, published in 1878. The Duke of Sutherland, to whom the deceased was chaplain, is patron of the living.

The Rev. Edward King, D.D., was on Friday afternoon elected to the Bishropic of Lincoln, on the resignation of Dr. Wordsworth. It was a strange coincidence that it should have proved to be the same day as Bishop Wordsworth entered into his rest. The election took place in the Chapter-house after the afternoon service, which was held an hour before the usual time. The Dean, dignitaries, archdeacons, and prebendaries went in procession to the Chapter-house, where the Apparitor opened the Court and made proclamation in the usual manner. The Succentor (Rev. A. R. Maddison) was then called upon to bring in the citations with a certificate of their due execution, which certificate was duly read by the Registrar. The dignitaries, archdeacons, and prebendaries were then præconised three times, and those absent were pronounced contumacious by the President. The *congé d'élire* and letters missive having been read by the Registrar, the President asked those present whether they consented to elect the Rev. Edward King, D.D., Bishop and pastor of that church. They unanimously consented, and the President then made declaration of his consent in these words, "I, Joseph William Blakesley, Dean of this church and President of this Chapter, do elect the Rev. Edward King, D.D., Bishop and pastor of this church, Bishopric, and diocese of Lincoln." Each of the other prebendaries made a similar declaration. The prebendaries then retired in procession to the choir, entering at the west door, when the Succentor published the election three times, first under the Dean's stall, secondly at the door of the Bishop's throne, and thirdly at the north side of the high altar, in these words:—"I, Arthur Roland Maddison, Succentor of this church, do declare and pronounce the Rev. Edward King, D.D., to be this day rightly and duly elected Bishop and pastor of this Cathedral church, Bishopric, and diocese of Lincoln by the Dean and Chapter of the said church to that intent Chapterwise assembled in the Chapter-house." The *Te Deum* was afterwards sung and the Benediction pronounced.

Two new churches were consecrated last week in the diocese of Liverpool by Bishop Ryle. One is in the parish of St. Helens, Lancashire, which has a population of 20,000. The church has been built in a district known as Cowley-hill (inhabited almost exclusively by an artisan population), from the designs of a local architect, Mr. James Gandy. It is a Gothic structure in the Early English style, with simple lancet windows arranged in pairs in the flank and clerestory walls, and singly round the apse. The west window is formed by a group of five under a common arch. The church consists of nave, north and south aisles, chancel, with circular apse termination, organ chamber on the north side, with choir vestry, and clergy vestry on the south. At the south-west corner, and forming the main entrance to the church building, is a tower and spire rising to a height of 120ft. The new district contains more than 6,000 souls principally of the artisan class, extending over an area of about 1,300 acres. The other church is that of St. John's, Crossens (Southport). The edifice is built to replace one erected in 1837. In 1881 this building was felt to be insufficient, and the late Mr. William Atkinson, J.P., of Southport, gave a handsome donation on the condition that a subscription should be commenced at once. His gift has since been added to by Mrs. Atkinson, and been followed by munificent donations from other persons. The church is built to hold 400 worshippers, and its construction has been carried out from the plans of Mr. J. W. C... of Leeds. It is a handsome cruciform structure o... terminated by an apse, and has the West-end prepared for a baptistry.

For some time past reports have been in circulation that in consequence of the ceremonies practised at St. Agnes's Church, Ullet-road, Liverpool, by the Rev. E. C. Elcum, the incumbent-designate, the Bishop of Liverpool had refused to institute him to the benefice, though nominated by the patron and founder, so long as the "practices," which are said to be strangely offensive to the Bishop, are continued. We (*Liverpool Mercury*) learn that this statement is correct, and that Mr. Horsfall having taken legal advice on the subject, found that, as the ecclesiastical law was interpreted by Chief Baron Pollock in the Miles Platting case — a decision which Sir Percival Heywood, the patron, never appealed against—he would in all probability be the losing party in any litigation which might ensue. It has, therefore, been decided that the particularly objectionable "practices" be discontinued. These are the use of altar lights, mixed chalice, and the singing of the *Agnus Dei* or any hymn after the consecration prayer in the Holy Communion. The Bishop having declined to institute the incumbent-designate unless these points were abandoned, Mr. Elcum last week signed a document at the church office in which it was agreed that the "practices" referred to should be given up, and the result of this concession is that Mr. Elcum will be privately instituted in a few days.

Through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bevan, a private meeting was held on Tuesday in the drawing-room of their house, 59, Prince's-gate, on behalf of Miss Leigh's "Homes" in Paris. Mr. Bevan and Bishop Titcomb having spoken warmly in favour of the mission, home, and other benevolent and useful agencies organised by Miss Leigh, the Rev. A. J. Harrison, chaplain of Christ Church, Neuilly, touched upon some features of the work which was being carried on to promote the social, physical, and spiritual welfare of the English in Paris, describing more particularly the orphanage and the home for working-men. Miss Leigh then gave an account of the work she was engaged in, explaining how it came about that a great many young Englishwomen, some of gentle birth and good education, were frequently to be found penniless and helpless in Paris. It was sometimes said that the homes should be made self-supporting. That was impossible if they were to aid effectually those for whom they were especially instituted. Since the Mission Home was established over 4,000 young women had been received, and among all those there was not forty who would not be received again. A house had been taken at a rent of £200 a year in the neighbourhood of the Madeleine for the greater convenience of young women employed in shops. The luncheons and dinners supplied at the Governesses and Artists' Association, Rue Bastiat, were paid for to the value of the food. Very many young people accepted engagements in Paris without at all knowing the real character of the situations offered them. Previous inquiry made by letter to the free registry, 77, Avenue Wagram, Paris, would prevent often perilous disappointment. Last year much exceptional expenditure had been necessary and a deficit of nearly £1,000 remained to be met. An income of about £3,000 had to be made up by annual subscriptions, and but a small part of this sum was assured. The ladies who assist Miss Leigh in the several undertakings connected with the homes are voluntary workers and pay for their board, so that all the money subscribed is expended in necessary outlay for those it is intended to benefit.

The nineteenth annual meeting of the Free and Open Church Association was held on Wednesday afternoon at 24, Bedford-street, Strand. In the unexpected absence of the President, Earl Nelson, the Chairman of the Council, Mr. F. H. Rooke, presided. In moving the adoption of the report of the Council for the past year the Chairman alluded especially to the small amount of pecuniary support which the Association received, and said that the Council had done their best to deal satisfactorily with the matters which came before them, but there were many opportunities for work which they were obliged to let go by. He referred especially to the cessation of the monthly issue of the *Free and Open Church Advocate*, the organ of the Association, which was a matter of deep regret to the Council. A large amount of information showing the progress of the movement still continued to be received, but the occasional issue only of the *Advocate* prevented much of it from being disseminated. Earl Nelson was re-elected President, and the Council and other officers were reappointed. In moving the re-election of Mr. E. M. Courtney as treasurer, Mr. Walter Rowley expressed his opinion that the Association was under considerable obligation to Mr. Courtney for his constant care and management of the funds of the Association.

MONEY MARKET.

FRIDAY.

Consols closed at 96⅞ to 97 for Money, and 96⅞ to 97⅛ for the Account.

The prospectus has been issued of the Automatic Musical Instrument Company (Limited), a company which has been formed for the purpose of acquiring and working the patent, for the whole world of the exceedingly clever invention to which we recently called attention, the Miranda Pianista. This remarkable instrument has already attained so great a popularity that the profits secured to the company under the licences already granted will show a dividend of about 20 per cent. for the first year, 28 per cent. for the second year, and 35 per cent. for every subsequent year. The capital of the company is £20,000, in 4,000 shares of £5 each. The offices are at 3, Copthall-buildings, E.C.

THE COURT.

The Queen, Princess Beatrice, Prince Louis and Prince Henry of Battenberg, and the members of Her Majesty's Household, attended Divine service in the private chapel of Windsor Castle on Sunday morning. The Very Rev. R. Davidson, Dean of Windsor, assisted by the Rev. Henry Wace, D.D., Principal of King's College, London, and Honorary Chaplain to the Queen, officiated. The Rev. Dr. Wace preached the sermon.

The Queen, on the 3rd inst., was pleased to confer on Princess Louise of Wales the First Class Insignia of the Order of Victoria and Albert.

The Queen will arrive in Portsmouth Dockyard from Windsor on the afternoon of Monday, the 30th, and will sleep on board the *Victoria and Albert* Captain Fullerton. At daybreak on Tuesday the yacht will leave Portsmouth for Cherbourg, from whence the Queen (who will travel privately) and suite will proceed to Aix-les-Bains. By this arrangement Darmstadt, instead of being the first, will be the last place visited during the Royal tour. Her Majesty will re-embark on the return journey at Flushing on the evening of the 29th of April, and will disembark at Port Victoria on the following day.

The Court went into mourning on Wednesday, the 25th inst., for her late Highness the Princess Charles of Hesse, mother of H.R.H. the Grand Duke of Hesse, son-in-law of Her Majesty; and on Saturday, April 4 next, the Court will go out of mourning.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne were present on Wednesday afternoon at a drawing-room meeting, which was held at the residence of Lord Kensington, in Grosvenor-street, to inaugurate the work of the Home Education Society, of which her Royal Highness has accepted the presidency.

Mr. William Peel, to whom the Peel medal for the best Latin essay has just been adjudged at Harrow, is the eldest son of the Speaker, and the grandson of the founder. The subject of the essay is "War with France after the arrival of the news of the execution of Louis XVI." The prize was founded by the late Sir Robert Peel in 1826.

A statement showing the revenue and expenditure of Egypt has been issued as a Parliamentary paper. On the general account the revenue for 1884 was £9,365,000, showing a deficit of £843,000 as compared with the expenditure; while in 1881 there was a surplus of £495,289. In the State Domains administration there is an estimated deficit on last year of £200,000, whereas in 1881 the deficit was £248,508. The estimated deficit in the Daira Sanieh administration is £251,000 for last year, the deficit in 1881 being £238,183; whereas in 1882 there was a surplus of £14,154. The Privileged debt is now £21,774,480, the Unified debt £54,591,537, the State Domains debt £7,453,000, and the Daira Sanieh £8,527,000; the total debt of Egypt on the 1st of January, 1885, being £92,346,677, the interest on which amounts to £3,986,148, and the Sinking Fund £109,418.

Sir W. Harcourt on Thursday presented the Albert Medal to Sergeant Cole for his gallantry at the time of the explosion in Westminster Hall. Over 700 of the Metropolitan Police and some members of Parliament were present at the ceremony. Having warmly eulogised the conduct of Sergeant Cox as well as Sergeant Cole, the Home Secretary called from the ranks Sergeants Garner and Snell, and commended their courage in the capture of burglars at Hoxton. He then made some general remarks on the Metropolitan Police, praising its discipline and efficiency, and asserting that, as a protector of order and as a defender of life and property, it was a force which had no superior, and perhaps no equal, in the world.

We regret to announce the death of the Hon. Gerald O'Callaghan, only son of Viscount and Viscountess Lismore, which took place last week in the Red Sea, on his voyage home from India.

The death of Sir Vere Henry Levinge, Bart., occurred at Madras on Sunday last. The late baronet was the sixth son of Sir Richard Levinge, sixth baronet, by his wife Elizabeth Anne, eldest daughter and co-heir of the first Lord Rancliffe, and was born in November, 1819. He succeeded to the baronetcy on the death of his brother, Sir Richard G. A. Levinge, as recently as the 28th of September last year. Sir Vere was educated at Haileybury, and was for some years in the Madras Civil Service. He is succeeded as ninth baronet by his brother, Harry Corbyn Levinge, born in 1828, and married in 1857 Ellen, daughter of Mr. R. Barnes, Purneah. The first baronet was Solicitor-General in Ireland, and Speaker in the Irish House of Commons, and was created a baronet in 1704. He was subsequently appointed Attorney-General, and in 1720 Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas

Under the presidency of the Lord Chancellor, the fifth annual general meeting of the governors of the City and Guilds of London Institute for the Advancement of Technical Education was held on Wednesday at the Mercers' Hall. The Report, with the accounts, which showed that the gross income during the year amounted to £25,864, and the expenditure to £16,422, was, on the motion of the chairman, seconded by the Lord Mayor, adopted, the speakers bearing testimony to the very satisfactory character of the document. Sir Sydney Waterlow, M.P., was re-elected treasurer.

The delegates of the Oxford Local Examinations have issued a notice of important alterations in their regulations as to the admission of persons to the examination of senior candidates. That examination has been hitherto limited to persons under eighteen years of age; but persons will be now admitted to it without any restriction of age. Successful candidates who are under nineteen years of age on the 1st of July in the year in which the examinations are held will receive the title of Associate of Arts, and their names will be published in the division lists. Successful candidates who are over that age will receive pass certificates, and their names will be published in a separate list. These changes will take effect in the examinations to be held in June and July next.

The crematory which was erected at St. John's, Woking, Surrey, was on Thursday made use of for the first time for a human cremation, and the body reduced to ashes was that of Mrs. Pickersgill, of Clarence-gate, London. It had been previously subjected to an autopsy. The deceased lady was well known in literary and scientific circles, and expressly stipulated in her will that her body should be cremated after death. With a view to this she had previously become a subscriber to the Cremation Society of England, in whose crematory the last rite was performed. This society was established some years ago by some of our most eminent men, with a view of proving to the public how completely cremation satisfied sanitary laws. The society is not a trading society, but a learned society. The cremation lasted one hour, and was, we are informed, eminently successful from every point of view—perfectly satisfying the representatives of the deceased who were present.

The *Daily News* of Wednesday contains an illustration and description of the new offices which have recently been erected by the proprietors at a very large cost on the site of their old premises in Bouverie-street. The front elevation, which is eighty-five feet in width and five stories high, presents a very handsome appearance; the lower part is built of Portland stone, ornamented with carvings representing the heads of Milton, Johnson, Goldsmith, Charles Dickens (the first editor of the *Daily News*), John Forster, and Douglas Jerrold; the upper part consists of red brick, with stone dressings. The interior of the main building is finished in the best style, and furnishes accommodation for the publishing and general offices, the editorial and management departments, &c. The rear portion of the premises is occupied by the printing-office, paper stores, stereotyping foundry, engines, and machine-room, the latter covering an area of 5,000 superficial feet. All the latest improvements and appliances have been introduced throughout the building, rendering it one of the most complete newspaper establishments in London.

The old colours of the 90th Regiment, now the 2nd Battalion Scottish Rifles, were on Thursday deposited in St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Hamilton. They were carried from the barracks by Captains Lomax and Heathcote, escorted by the men of the 90th now in barracks, under Captain Vincent. The colours were handed over to the incumbent of the church by Colonel Rogers, V.C., and were placed over the memorial window lately erected to the men who fell in South Africa.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Times* telegraphs:—A letter from Sophia dated the 19th inst. informs me that the lower clergy all over Bulgaria have begun to strike work. They refuse to hold church services, baptise, or solemnise marriages and burials. The strike has been caused by a withdrawal of the State subsidy of £32,000, which the Sobranje voted for them in 1883 and 1884. This grant has been made because three years ago the Bulgarian peasantry began to refuse to pay tithes; but this year the Government being imbedded in financial difficulties, felt that it could not afford the subsidy. The Minister of Public Worship has informed the clergy that they must get their stipends from their parishioners; "and so," adds my correspondent, "the strike is likely to last for some little time."

The annual meeting of the Funeral Reform Association will take place in the Mansion House, London, on Friday, April 17, at three p.m., instead of on the 15th, as originally announced; his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh having fixed Wednesday, the 15th, for a concert on behalf of a charity in which his Royal Highness takes an interest.

Mr. Isidore Donn has just finished a portrait in crayon of Mr. Gladstone. Mr. Donn is a young artist who has already shown signs of considerable ability, and in the present instance he has produced an excellent portrait of the Prime Minister. A powerful testimony to the merit of the work is found in the fact that it has been purchased by Mrs. Gladstone, who has expressed herself as pleased with it, and wished the artist future success.

Writing a year and a half ago to the secretary of the Funeral Reform Association, the late Bishop of Lincoln remarked: "At a time when suicide is greatly on the increase, and when young people are rushing recklessly into eternity as if they had nothing to fear, it would be well to add some solemn words of caution to your appeal in the spirit of the writer to the Hebrews—'It is appointed to men once to die, and after that the judgment.' There is great danger in dressing up a funeral in all cases as if it were a wedding. The promiscuous profusion of flowers at all funerals is, to my mind at least, equally repulsive with the black plumes of bygone days. Blessed is he that 'feareth always.'"

Fairy Flowers is the very appropriate name given to a novelty for church decoration lately introduced from America by Messrs. Howcroft and Watkins, of Covent-garden. They are delicate and graceful, resembling large balls of thistledown, and can be used for wreaths, crosses, texts, or any kind of decoration, producing a most charming effect. They can also be utilised for making bouquets, being made in a variety of colours, which, when tastefully arranged, have a far more pleasing appearance than anything of the kind we have before seen.

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL.—The aggregate number of patients relieved during the week ending March 21 was—medical 1,022, surgical 493; total 1,515, of which 557 were new cases.

CAUTION.—WATER FILTRATION.—The public are cautioned, before purchasing Filters, to see that what they buy are really water purifiers, and not mere strainers, which latter, although rendering water bright, do not remove the organic and mineral impurities. In the instructions to the local boards of health by order of the Privy Council it has been distinctly stated that the old sponge filters are of no avail for purifying water. These filters are constantly advertised as a new patent, whereas the ONLY FILTERS, containing nothing but the purest ANIMAL CHARCOAL, are those supplied by the LONDON AND GENERAL WATER-PURIFYING COMPANY (Limited), 157, Strand (four doors from Somerset House), W.C.—Read "Water: its Impurities and Purification." Price 6d.

EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected Cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately-flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—*Civil Service Gazette.*—Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold only in Packets, labelled—"JAMES EPPS AND CO., Homœopathic Chemists, London."—Also makers of Epps's Chocolate Essence.

"laden with the scent of flowers,
And breath of odorous spring."

SPINNER'S TEA.—A company of merchants are now selling through Spinner & Co. the choicest tea that comes from India and China at 2s. 8d. a pound, in packets only. This is the perfection of tea, and will please the most fastidious.—Agents wanted in every town and village. For terms, apply to Spinner & Co., 60, Strand, London.—SPINNER & CO., London and Liverpool.

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BIRTHS.

March 15, at Ettagh Rectory, King's County, the wife of the Rev. ECKERSALL NIXON, of a daughter.

March 20, at St. Mark's Vicarage, Dewsbury, the wife of the Rev. J. KNOWLES HARRISON, of a daughter.

March 20, at Brightwaltham Rectory, the wife of the Rev. HENRY F. HOWARD, of a son.

March 20, at the Vicarage, St. Mary Church, Devon, the wife of the Rev. ARTHUR BOURCHIER WREY, M.A., of a son.

March 22 (Passion Sunday), at 6, Holland-park-gardens, W. the wife of the Rev. CLAUD BROWN, of a son.

March 22, at Easton-on-the-Hill Rectory, Stamford, the wife of the Rev. H. R. VERRY, of a son.

March 25 (Festival of the Annunciation), at 15, Exeter-road, Brondesbury, N.W., the wife of the Rev. SILVANUS T. H. SAUNDERS, M.A., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

March 21, at St. Bartholomew's, Sydenham, HERMAN WALTER SILLEM, Esq., of Iquique, Chile, second son of Augustus Sillem, Esq., Lawrie-park, Sydenham, to LUCY KATHERINE JOYCE, second daughter of the Rev. JOHN INGLE, Rector of St. Olave's, Exeter.

March 24, at Regent's-park Chapel, ALFRED PEARCE GOULD, M.S., of 16, Queen Anne-street, W., to FLORENCE, youngest daughter of the late Right Hon. Lord Justice LUSH.

March 24, at St. Mark's, North Audley-street, Captain HUGH CHOLMONDELEY, Rifle Brigade, to MARY PAYNE TOWNSHEND, daughter of the late Mr. Payne Townshend, of Derry, Rosscarbery, county Cork.

DEATHS.

March 15, at Montreux, Bradford, EDWARD, elder surviving son of the Rev. ROBERT BURDETT BURGESS, Rector of Chickney, Essex, aged 34.

March 16, at Longley Hall, Huddersfield, RICHARD HEWLEY GRAHAM, second surviving son of the late Rev. J. B. Graham, Vicar of Felkirk, Yorkshire, aged 51 years.

March 18, at 16, Powis-square, Brighton, EMMA, widow of the Rev. AUGUSTUS FITZROY.

March 19, at the Vicarage, Normanton, IRENE MEREDITH, third daughter of the Rev. W. MEREDITH LANE, aged 10 years.

March 20, at Stoodley Knowle, Torquay, FLORENCE, daughter of the late Rev. WILLIAM BOURCHIER WREY, Rector of Tawstock, North Devon, aged 80 years.

March 20, at Cheltenham, ALICIA, widow of the Rev. BERNARD CHURTON, late Rector of Wheathill, Shropshire.

March 21, at Woolston Vicarage, Southampton, ALICE MARTHA, the beloved wife of EDWARD J. REEVE, M.A., Vicar of St. Peter's, Stockport, Cheshire, aged 33.

March 24, at No. 3, Arlington-park-villas, Chiswick, CAPTAIN ANTHONY SCARISBRICK, late 2nd Life Guards, aged 63 years

LATEST NEWS.

Rome, March 27.

The Pope held a secret consistory this morning for the purpose of nominating several Bishops to vacant Sees in Italy, France, Spain, Austria, and America. His Holiness delivered a short allocution on the occasion.

Constantinople, March 26.

The Powers have accepted the proposal of Turkey that there should be an Ottoman representative on the Caisse of the Public Debt.

ENGLAND AND RUSSIA.

No change is apparent in the state of the negotiations between the two countries since the last assurances were received from the Russian Government that the Russian advance should be stayed pending further negotiations, and it is understood that the British Government have taken up an attitude of firmness in pressing upon the Russian Government the necessity of proceeding with the negotiations for a definite delimitation of the frontier. From the latest information received, it appears that Russian outposts were now within half a mile of the Afghan outposts at Penjdeh. In consequence of this proximity of Russian troops, a concentration of British forces at Rawul Pindi and Scind has been deemed advisable.

At a military conference held at Allahabad on Wednesday, the Viceroy being present, it was resolved that a force of 50,000 men should take the field at once, under the command of Sir D. Stewart. The force will be divided into two army corps, each consisting of 25,000 men, commanded respectively by Generals Hardinge and Sir Frederick Roberts. The Reserve division of 10,000 strong will also be mobilised. It is believed that 15,000 men will be drawn from England; but preparations should be made to send at least 50,000. The utter folly of stopping the construction of the Quettah Railway is now painfully apparent, but luckily a good road has been made through the Bolan Pass. Supplies are being hurried up in large quantities.

It is understood that the Government do not at present contemplate calling out the whole of the Reserve but only in the first instance about 20,000 men of the First Class Army Reserve, and probably 5,000 or 6,000 of the Militia Reserve. The Army Reserve now numbers in all 39,224 men, and the Militia Reserve 30,134, making a total of close upon 70,000 efficient soldiers who are available for service at any moment.

The general opinion in the European capitals still appears to be that the Anglo-Russian dispute will be arranged peacefully. At Berlin, however, the report of the mobilisation of the Indian troops caused a fall in the Russian funds. The *National Zeitung* states that in diplomatic circles the Anglo-Russian dispute is still regarded without apprehension. The negotiations now pending between the two Cabinets are making favourable progress, and there is nothing to prevent an early agreement. At Vienna, the *Standard* correspondent says, in leading circles the belief remains unshaken that the peaceful intentions of the Czar and M. de Giers will overcome the existing difficulties, provided England does not raise unjustifiable claims and the Ameer of Afghanistan does not play a double game.

LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords last evening, the Marquis of Salisbury said he hoped the Government would not allow the House to separate without giving their Lordships some information as to the precise state of things in Afghanistan. Was it understood that the Russian troops were to remain in their present positions until the demarcation of the frontier had been concluded? Statements that had been made in the House of Commons had thrown doubts on the intentions of the Government; and he felt that the slightest indication of flinching on the part of Her Majesty's Government would cause us to lose the friendship of Afghanistan.

Earl Granville said nothing which had been said in the other House justified the idea that there would be any flinching on the part of Her Majesty's Government from whatever they thought it right to do. The Government desired to avail themselves of every means of coming to a settlement which should be honourable and satisfactory to Russia, to India, and to ourselves. Communications had been made to the Russian Government, and the Russian Ambassador had informed him that he had been instructed to acknowledge the receipt in St. Petersburg of the last despatch, which his Government were considering, and they would shortly send a reply. The Russian Government were bound by the understanding that was stated a few days ago in this House. With regard to the Ameer, communications had been made to India, and Her Majesty's Government had reason to believe that orders had in consequence been given to the Afghan troops, which were being obeyed at the present moment.

The Duke of Argyll asked whether the Russians arrived at Penjdeh before Sir Peter Lumsden was on the ground.

Lord Granville protested against such a question being asked without notice, but answered the question in the affirmative.

The "important communication" forwarded by Lord Granville to St. Petersburg on the 16th inst. was, the *Globe* understands, a proposal that both the Russian and the Afghan forces should withdraw from the debatable zone, pending the result of negotiations at London. Our contemporary is also informed that a definite reply arrived on Wednesday evening, refusing these conditions as being humiliating to Russia. The decision to embody the Reserves and Militia was arrived at by the Cabinet Council after considering this answer. It is understood that another proposal, partaking of the nature of an ultimatum, was on Thurday telegraphed to St. Petersburg, with a request that the answer should reach Downing-street not later than next Monday.

A meeting of the Cabinet was held at two o'clock yesterday at Mr. Gladstone's official residence, in Downing-street. All the Ministers were present except Earl Spencer.

SOCIETY.

The marriage of the Hon. Helen A. Brodrick, second daughter of Viscount Midleton, with the Rev. Archibald Eau Campbell, M.A., eldest son of the late Colonel Walter Campbell, of Skipness, N.B., and rector of Castle Rising, Norfolk, is fixed to take place at Peper Harow on Tuesday, April 14.

Also between the Rev. Reginald Knatchbull-Hugessen, son of the late Right Hon. Sir Edward Knatchbull, Bart., of Mersham Hatch, Ashford, M.P., for Kent, and Miss Rachael Mary Montgomery, daughter of Admiral Sir Alexander Montgomery, Bart.

Also between Mr. Josceline Bagot, Grenadier Guards, of Levens Hall, Westmoreland, eldest son of the late Colonel Charles Bagot, and Miss Dosia Leslie, third daughter of Sir John and Lady Leslie.

Also between Mr. Henry Exshaw, eldest son of Mr. Exshaw, of Bordeaux, and of Brook House, near Norwich, and Miss Inglis Jones, only daughter of Lady Elizabeth Inglis Jones and the late Mr. Inglis Jones, of Derry Ormond, Cardiganshire.

H.R.H. the Duchess of Edinburgh, accompanied by her son, Prince Alfred, and a numerous and distinguished company, assembled in the Abbey Church of St. Albans, Herts, on Tuesday last, to witness the marriage of Lady Harriot Elizabeth Grimston, eldest daughter of the Earl of Verulam, and Lady in Waiting to the Duchess of Edinburgh, with Major Francis Harwood Poore, Royal Marine Artillery, one of the equerries to the Duke of Edinburgh. A Royal special train conveyed the Duchess and her son to St. Albans, where they were met by Viscount Grimston, representing his father, the Mayor and Mayoress and leading members of the Corporation. The Royal party then drove off to the Abbey Church, where they were received by a guard of honour of the Herts Volunteers, the band of the regiment playing the National Anthem. The city was tastefully decorated with flags, evergreens, and appropriate mottoes. The Cathedral was crowded. Prince Cantacuzene, Count Adlerberg, the Duchess of Norfolk, the Duchess of Montrose, the Marquis and Marchioness of Salisbury and Lady Gwendolen Cecil, the Earl and Countess of Verulam, the Earl and Countess of Clanwilliam, the Earl and Countess of Caledon, the Earl and Countess of Clarendon, the Earl and Countess of Lathom and Ladies Wilbraham, the Countess Dowager of Craven, the Countess Dowager of Caledon and Lady Jane Alexander, Viscount and Viscountess Grimston and Hon. James Grimston., Viscountess Strangford, Lady Hermione Graham and Miss Hilda Graham, Lord Hyde and Lady Edith Villiers, the Ladies Byng, Lady Dacre, and many county families were present on the occasion. Mr. G. V. Poore acted as best man to his brother, and there were five bridesmaids, who were very prettily dressed in cream plush skirts, with bodices and drapery of cream nun's veiling, and the elder ladies wore cream bonnets and feathers, the younger having hats to match. Each wore a gold and pearl horseshoe bracelet, the gift of the bridegroom. On the arrival of the bride, she was conducted to the altar by her brother, Viscount Grimston. She was handsomely attired in bodice and very long train of the richest cream satin, over a petticoat of Brussels lace, the gift of her mother, and her lace veil was fastened with diamond stars, over a wreath of natural orange blossoms and myrtle. Her ornaments included a pearl necklace and diamond pendant, the gift of Viscount and Viscountess Grimston and the Hon. Robert and Lady Jane Grimston. The Duchess of Edinburgh was attired in a velvet dress (embossed with peacock feathers) draped with fawn cashmere, and bonnet to match. Prince Alfred wore a sailor suit. The Rev. Benjamin Hutchinson, vicar of St. Michael's, St. Albans, officiated, assisted by the Ven. Archdeacon Lawrance, the bride being given away by her father. The service was fully choral. H.R.H. the Duchess of Edinburgh and Prince Alfred, and a large circle of relatives and friends afterwards assembled at Gorhambury, the residence of the Earl and Countess of Verulam, for breakfast, after which Major Poore and his bride left for London, on their way to the Continent. The bride's travelling dress was of grey cashmere and silk shot with ruby, and bonnet to correspond, and mantle of ruby velvet. The wedding presents were very numerous, and included some costly jewellery and plate.

Sir Arthur D. Hayter, M.P., and Lady Hayter entertained at dinner on Saturday evening, at their house in Grosvenor-square, His Excellency Fehmy Pasha, Mdme. de Staal, Count Pourtalès, the Marquis of Hartington, Isabella Countess of Wilton, Lord Alcester, Lady Randolph Churchill, Hon. Edward Majoribanks, M.P., and Lady Fanny Majoribanks, Hon. Mrs. Agar-Ellis, the Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, the Right Hon. Sir Thomas Erskine May, Sir John Rose, Mr. R. W. Duff, Mr. and Mrs. H. Oppenheim, Mrs. Peel, Mrs. Stanley Clarke, and Miss Beresford Hope. Lady Hayter afterwards held a reception, which was numerously attended. Louisa Marchioness of Waterford wore black satin bodice and train, with trimmings of lace and jet; Hon. Lady Ponsonby Fane, black tulle and satin; the Countess of Crawford and Balcarres, rich cream satin, brocaded in coloured flowers, and handsome diamond ornaments; Countess De La Warr, black brocaded velvet, with diamond ornaments; the Countess of Morley, black lace and jet; Viscountess Hood, crimson brocade, diamond ornaments; the Marchioness of Tweeddale, black and white brocade; Miss Peel, black tulle and satin; Baroness de Brienen, rich brown satin, with lace and jet trimmings; Mdlle. de Brienen, white striped satin and lace; the Countess of Galloway, black satin and jet, diamond ornaments; Countess de Florian, rich crimson satin, and a crimson aigrette fastened with diamonds in her hair; Lady Constance Campbell, crimson satin and lace; Lady Romilly, rich cream lace and diamond ornaments; Lady Eustace Cecil, grey satin and lace; Lady Macdonald, black lace and jet; Lady Auckland, grey silk and brocade, diamond ornaments; Lady Randolph Churchill, pale blue satin and lace; Lady Conyers, deep terra-cotta satin over a lace skirt; and the Hon. Misses Lane Fox, black tulle and jet.

The fourteenth annual meeting of the Post Office Orphan Home will be held in the lecture-hall of the Young Men's Christian Association, 186, Aldersgate-street, E.C., on Tuesday, the 31st inst., at 8.15 p.m., Mr. G. C. Steet, F.R.C.S., in the chair.

DEATH OF BISHOP WORDSWORTH.

Dr. Christopher Wordsworth, the late Bishop of Lincoln, died at Harewood, near Leeds, shortly after midnight on Saturday. The late Prelate was the son of the late Rev. Christopher Wordsworth, D.D., Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, and Priscilla, daughter of Mr. Charles Lloyd, the well-known Midland counties banker. His uncle was William Wordsworth, the poet, and his elder brother, Dr. Charles Wordsworth, is the present Bishop of St. Andrews. Bishop Christopher Wordsworth was born in 1807, and received his school education at the great school of Winchester, where, so great was the admiration of his schoolfellows for him, that he was unanimously called "The Great Christopher." His career at the University of Cambridge was exceptionally brilliant. He was Scholar of Trinity and Chancellor's English Medallist in 1827, Porson's Prizeman in 1828, Craven Scholar in 1829, Senior Classic in 1830. In 1833 he took his M.A. degree and was fellow and tutor of Trinity College, public orator in 1836, and head master of Harrow School in 1836-44. It was when fellow and tutor of Trinity that the future Bishop of Lincoln went down to examine the pupils of Dr. Arnold at Rugby, and selected as the best scholars, Stanley, afterwards Dean of Westminster, and Vaughan, the present Dean of Llandaff and Master of the Temple, in whose work at school he clearly discerned the promise and pledge of future distinction. Dr. Wordsworth held the head-mastership of Harrow School, and with marked success, until 1844, when he was appointed by Sir Robert Peel to a canonry at Westminster Abbey. He was Hulsean Lecturer at Cambridge from 1847 to 1848. It was in 1869 that Canon Wordsworth was appointed to the See of Lincoln, rendered vacant by the transition of the late Dr. Jackson to the See of London. Bishop Wordsworth afterwards travelled to Cologne in 1872 in order to take a practical interest in the Old Catholic Congress which met in that city. The late Bishop was a ready, voluminous, and most learned writer, his last important contribution to ecclesiastical history being *The History of the Church to the Council of Nicæa*. The late Prelate was the eighty-seventh Bishop of Lincoln, one of the largest dioceses in England. He had been patron of eighty-seven livings, and official visitor of Brasenose College, Oxford. He leaves behind him two sons, the Rev. John Wordsworth, fellow and tutor of Brasenose College, Oxford, and the Rev. Christopher Wordsworth, fellow of St. Peter's College, Cambridge, and five daughters, one of whom is married to the Rev. J. Trebeck.

Referring to the death of the lamented Prelate, the *Morning Post* says:—

"Full of years, of honours, and the ripe fruits of a long, active, stainless, and useful life, Christopher Wordsworth, late Bishop of Lincoln, passed away early on Saturday morning last. He had put off his episcopal responsibilities some months before, being no longer equal to the work of his vast diocese; but he did not long enjoy the leisure that thus came to him. He had worked as long as he could, and he took off his harness just in time to die. His departure leaves a sense of loss through the whole of his diocese and amongst troops of private friends, for though eminently a man to be admired and honoured, he was pre-eminently a man to be loved. It is not always that even highly-gifted men can successfully fill the separate spheres of public and private life; but it is not too much to say of Bishop Wordsworth that he was great in both.

"Much of his valuable service to theology was rendered while he lived at Westminster. He studied the course of contemporary events, and saw with much precision whither it was leading the thought of his age. He was out of sympathy with much of it. He was profoundly impressed with the conviction that theology for the million must be dogmatic. That the entire precepts of Christianity were embodied in the Catholic faith; and that they were distinctly ascertainable in the accredited records of the Church, as well as in the inspired teaching of the New Testament. While he respected the results of independent religious inquiry he was impatient of propositions that disturbed the ancient landmarks of the faith. To him the primitive faith, uncorrupted by Romanism, undiluted by Puritanism, and undistracted by pseudo-scientific Rationalism, was the very substance and embodiment of Divine revelation—the voice of God through the ministration of man. This governed all his teaching. What he taught he taught with confidence and courage. It might be unacceptable in high places or in low, it might expose him to the opposition of schools of thought or the sneers of their disciples; the advocacy of it might stand between him and high preferment; but these did not shake him for a moment. It was his profound conviction, and nothing turned him from it or could induce him to water down in the least degree the requirements as to faith and duty of the Church whose teacher he was. In this he was a preacher eminently suited to his age. Some one has said that he really belonged to the tenth century, but that an unkind Providence placed him in the nineteenth. It is quite a mistake. He was precisely the kind of man that this century requires. . . . Our age is remarkable for the extreme lengths to which some adventurous explorers have carried inquiry into the inscrutable, and for the daring propositions in which they have formulated their discoveries. They have found a peculiar, almost awful, fascination in the pursuit of materials for overthrowing the faith of all previous ages—disowning Deity, propounding a creation without a Creator, upholding a reign of law while denying a Lawgiver, and destroying by freaks of mock intellectual dynamite the foundations of faith and morality upon which have been based from earliest epochs the hopes and the happiness of man. It is because the solid, learned, and wide theology of Dr. Wordsworth so powerfully met the aggressive advances of the Neoplatonism of this century that so many are thankful that he lived when he did. So far from being behind his age he was conspicuously a part of it, a power in it, a champion against its perversities, an admirer of its achievements in physical or in mental science, but a corrector of its mistakes, a denouncer of its pretenders, a defender of old positions, a wise and wary watchman upon the fortress of truth in troublous times. After twenty-five years at Westminster Abbey he went to the See of Lincoln. It is proof of the versatility of his powers that he was soon able to throw himself with much heartiness and effect into the new work that thus came to him. . . . . He had not been long in the diocese before it became manifest that he would speedily have it well in hand. For this he worked, and in it he succeeded. . . . . He worked along a variety of lines, promoting church building, education, clerical training, the improvement of the Cathedral, and many extra-diocesan objects for which his aid was invoked. And thus his splendid life was passed, cultivating all good in himself and doing untold good to others. . . . . Whether as Prelate, scholar, author, preacher, moralist, or man, he stood in the forefront of his age, conspicuous alike for what he was and for what he did."

The funeral of the late Bishop Wordsworth took place on Wednesday afternoon. The body of the late Prelate arrived at Lincoln on Tuesday from Leeds late in the afternoon, and was carried by the students of the Scholæ Cancellariæ through the Cathedral to the morning chapel, where it lay all night, watched by his children and others. At the early celebration of Holy Communion on Wednesday, when Archdeacon Kaye was the celebrant, the family communicated at the morning service. Purcell's funeral anthem, "Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts," was sung, and Canon Pennington, at the close of his sermon on the humility of the blessed Virgin, said that the departed Prelate had left to the Church a bright example of humility, devotedness, and self-sacrifice. He had planted his strongest artillery against the Church of Rome, and by his commentary on Holy Scripture had rendered invaluable service. The Cathedral was crowded to its utmost capacity alike by clergy and laity. At two o'clock the Archbishop of Canterbury, attended by Canon Hole as his chaplain, left the vestry for the west door to meet the coffin of oak with a Latin cross on its whole length, in which lay the body of the deceased prelate in full episcopal robes, and on which were placed the choicest white flowers. Every portion of the diocese was represented in the procession, the number of farmers being specially noteworthy. The Mayor and Corporation attended in state, and there were present the Bishops of Southwell and Melanesia, the Dean of Ely, Sir Hickman Bacon, Sir Charles Anderson, Mr. C. C. Sibthorp, Mr. R. Sibthorp, Mr. A. Q. Melville, Mr. F. S. Hood, Mr. G. A. Luard, and Mr. G. W. Marriott. The Chancellor was prevented attending. The deceased's hymn, "Hark, the sound of holy voices," and Spohr's anthem, "Blest are the departed," were sung. Some three hundred clergy of the diocese were present. The sentences of the Burial Office were admirably sung to the music of George Holmes, organist of Lincoln in Queen Anne's reign. The 39th Psalm was sung to Chard in B flat, and the 90th to Mendelssohn in D. The Archdeacon of Lincoln received the coffin, after which, a voluntary hymn being sung, the body was borne down the crowded aisle to the western door, whence on the simplest carriage it was conveyed to Riseholme, hundreds following on foot owing to the difficulty of obtaining conveyances in consequence of the races. The great bell of the Cathedral tolled before and after the service, and most of the shops had their shutters up. At Riseholme the service in the churchyard, which was said by the Primate, was perfectly plain. The Bishop was buried by the side of his wife. The Dean of York, Dr. Gott, the vicar of Leeds, the Rev. Brymer Belcher, and many others beyond the borders of the diocese were present. The grave was lined with the choicest spring flowers and moss, and was nearly filled with floral wreaths, many sent from a distance by brother Bishops and other friends.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

NEW ACROSTIC RULES.

In future, instead of the Quarterly Prizes, a Prize of One Guinea will be given every month for the successful solution of the Acrostics that appear in the *John Bull*.

The first monthly competition will include the Acrostics that are given on February 21st, February 28th, March 7th, March 14th, March 21st, and March 28th.

At the end of the month, in case competitors tie, they will proceed to guess off the ties, being debarred from prize-winning in the fresh monthly competition so long as they are engaged in contesting the ties.

No competitor can gain more than two Monthly Prizes in the course of the year.

All solutions must be forwarded not later than the Monday week following the appearance of the Acrostic, addressed to the Acrostic Editor of the *John Bull*, 6, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street, E.C., and signed by a pseudonym of not inordinate length.

Alternatives to the number of three are allowed.

All solutions received are acknowledged, whether correct or not.

ANSWER TO DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 4.

(First Month, Tenth Year.)

1. T eapo T
2. W illo W
3. E ntir E
4. E y E
5. D iome D
6. L ove L
7. E tiquett E
8. D ugal D
9. U nel E
10. M iddl E

Answers have been received from Persevere, Roma, James Crow, Todcat, G.C.H., Zyx, Etak, Beam, Peewit, Hampton Courtier, M.A.E.B., Two Countesses, Conjecture, and Sarnia.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 6.

(First Month, Tenth Year.)

Proem.

A struggle sometimes for aquatic fame,
Oft a procession—save in name.

1.

Therein to wed the Adrian sea he went.

2.

Thence grain to the Western world is sent.

3.

A region of frost through its chief extent.

4.

A service most sad and most sweet of Lent.

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